

# DIY VOLUNTEER PROJECTS



## The Mission

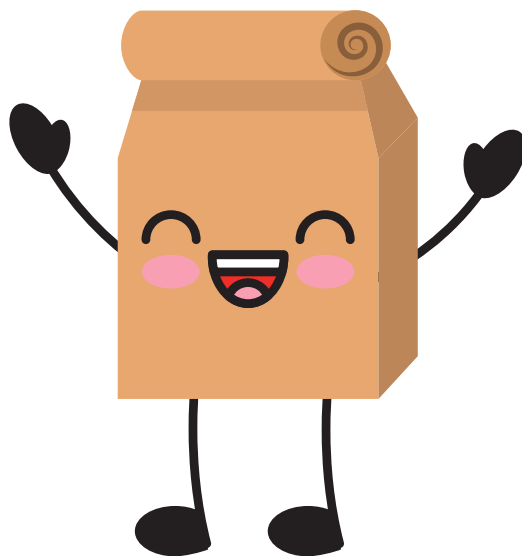
The Ali Forney Center (AFC) is more than just a shelter; it's a lifeline for homeless LGBTQ+ youth aged 16-24. As the nation's largest provider of shelter and comprehensive services for this vulnerable population, AFC aims to protect young people from the severe impacts of homelessness. Each year, AFC serves nearly 1,800 young individuals by providing more than 378,000 meals, health and educational services, mental health programs, and more. However, the work is far from over, and your support can make a significant difference.

## What you can do...

In this packet, we have offered five various DIY projects that you and your team can do that will directly aid our youth, including the procurement and assembly of **snack bags**, **hygiene kits**, **shaving kits**, **Black Joy kits**, as well as **birthday cards**.

It is crucial for young people to receive basic necessities and additional resources that cater to various aspects of their daily lives. For your convenience, we have offered suggested supplies to build each package.

# Snack Bags



Volunteer groups are needed to procure and assemble snack bags for AFC's 24/7 Drop-In Center.

Consider the bag that you are packing, whether using this as an opportunity to give a sustainable and reusable lunch bag or opting for a brightly colored paper bag. Here are some recommendations:

- [Premium reusable lunch bag](#) or [Paper reusable bag with handles](#)

Each bag should contain 5-8 non-perishable, individually sealed snacks with an expiration date and ingredient list.

## **Suggestions include:**

- Fruit: [Freeze-dried fruit](#) and/or [fruit smoothie pouches](#)
- Bars: [Granola bars](#) and/or [protein bars](#)
- Healthy Snacks: [Trail mix](#) and/or [mini pretzels](#)
- Indulgences: [Nabisco snack packs](#) or [fruit snacks](#)

This pack is our most essential. Please consider building 50 - 250 bags. If you are interested in packing more, please contact Julian X, Development Associate, at [jx@aliforneycenter.org](mailto:jx@aliforneycenter.org).

# Hygiene Kits

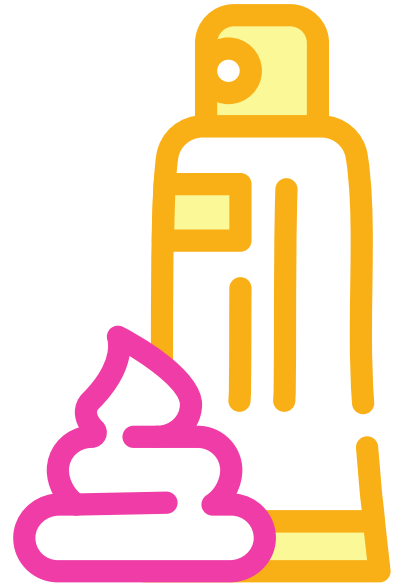


We kindly request that groups create 50 to 200 kits to aid in AFC's ability to store and distribute kits. **Each kit should include:**

- Toiletry bag (sturdy and reusable)
- Travel-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Body lotion with Shea Butter
- Toothbrush and floss
- Wet Ones body wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunblock
- Satin silk hair bonnet

Whenever possible, opt for gender-neutral items (deodorants, body wash, etc.) and products suitable for kinky, curly, and textured hair.

# Shaving Kits



We kindly request that groups create 20 to 100 kits to aid in AFC's ability to store and distribute kits. **Each kit should include:**

- Multi- Blade Razor
- Shaving Cream
- Soothing Lotion

These shaving kits are not only support all of our youth but are particularly valuable to those who identify as trans-femme. They empower our clients, helping them feel more comfortable and confident in who they are.

# Black Joy Kits



**of AFC clients identify as BIPOC**

Each year, AFC supports nearly 1,800 young people, 60% of whom are Black. We prioritize providing these young individuals with products tailored to their daily needs while also supporting Black-owned businesses.

We kindly request that groups create 50 to 200 Black Joy kits to aid in AFC's ability to store and distribute kits. **Here are some suggestions of items to include:**

- Wide-tooth comb
- [Black Girl Sunscreen](#)
- Silk bonnets and shower caps
- [Juvia's Place lip balm/gloss](#)
- [Cocoa butter lotion](#)

# Birthday Cards

**Suggested supplies for creating birthday cards include:**

- Card stock or construction paper
- Glue sticks and hot glue gun
- Magic markers and stickers
- Decorative tape and craft paper
- Be creative with buttons, twine, pipe cleaners, rhinestones, other decorative pieces

Please avoid materials that can be messy, such as feathers, sequins, and glitter. Leave the inside of the card blank for AFC staff to add personalized messages.

## ***Sample Cards from Other Groups***





# How to Send Packages

Please email Julian X, [jx@aliforneycenter.org](mailto:jx@aliforneycenter.org) with shipping details (approximately number of boxes to be shipped, arrival date, tracking information if available. Also, let us know who built the kit by kindly filling out the packing slip (see below) in each box you ship.

## Please Ship or Drop Off Kits to:

Ali Forney Center

Attn: *Type of Kit (snack bags, birthday cards, etc.)*

307 W 38th Street

2nd Floor

New York, NY 10018



### Volunteer Kit Packing Return Sheet

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Packed: \_\_\_\_\_ Box \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of Kits Packed: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Kit (circle one): Snack Kit    Hygiene Kit    Black Joy Kit    Shaving Kit    Birthday Card(s)

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**Volunteer Kit Packing Return Sheet**

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