

Jersey Cares First Night Kit Instructions

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When someone arrives on the doorstep of a local shelter, their lives have reached a point at which they often have none of the essentials that most of us take for granted. Women seeking refuge from abusive situations, victims of the economy whose search for income has been fruitless, children whose parents are in desperate circumstances and others in similar situations usually lack basic hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, and toothpaste. By assembling a First Night Kit, you are helping to provide comfort for an individual staying their first night at a homeless shelter, transitional home, or family services center.

****Youth volunteers can earn 2 volunteer hours for every 10 First Night Kits assembled.****

Materials Needed for 1 First Night Kit:

- 1 Bottle of Shampoo
- 1 Bottle Conditioner
- 1 Bar/Bottle of Soap or Body Wash
- 1 Tube of Toothpaste
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Stick of Deodorant
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Travel-Size Tissue Packs
- 1 Lip Balm
- 1 Gallon Sized Ziploc Bag
- 1 Pair of Socks (Optional)
- 1 Pair of Underwear (Optional)
- 1 Sheet of Cardstock (Optional)
- 1 Pair Scissors (Optional)
- Markers (Optional)

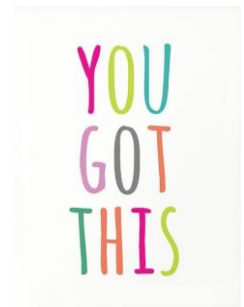
Directions:

1. Collect or purchase all the materials listed above.

- You may host a First Night Kit Collection Drive to obtain these items. To host a collection drive, visit the [Jersey Cares First Night Kit Program](#) webpage and follow the registration instructions. You will receive an email with more information after registration.
- Alternatively, you can purchase all the items listed above from a local business.
- You may create as many First Night Kits as you would like.

2. Write a note of encouragement to the recipient.

- Using cardstock and markers, create a colorful card. Include inspirational quotes or encouraging lines such as “thinking of you”
- Sign “your friend” instead of your name.





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3. Create 1 First Night Kit by filling a Ziploc bag and fill with each of the following items:

- 1 Shampoo
- 1 Conditioner
- 1 Soap or Body Wash
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Bottle of toothpaste
- 1 Deodorant
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Travel Sized Tissue Pack
- 1 Lip Balm
- 1 Pair of Socks (Optional)
- 1 Pair of Underwear (Optional)
- 1 Completed Card

You may create as many First Night Kits as possible. The number of First Night Kits you can create is dependent on the number of items you collect or purchase.

4. Ship or drop off your completed First Night Kits to Jersey Cares. Please ship or drop off to the address below. The Jersey Cares office is open for drop-offs from Monday-Thursday between 9:00am-4:00pm. Please call the Jersey Cares office at 973-533-1993 before dropping off your First Night Kits.

Jersey Cares
Attn: First Night Kit Program
290 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 1320
Livingston, NJ 07039