

ELKINS FACULTY, STUDENTS and FAMILIES: FBISD 'in need' students from ages K-12 need YOUR new or GENTLY used (school appropriate) clean clothing, coats, jackets, shoes, new socks and underwear, shavers, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, belts, purses, scarves, winter gloves, shavers, books, backpacks, old computers, monetary donations, volunteers to stock shelves and/or for you (or your place of business) to help sponsor this great organization.

We are holding a drive **March 19th– March 27th** and big boxes will be by the front desk and in the Commons daily. The front is open til noon on Saturdays too, if you wish to drop off your filled bags of donations.

You may not know, but Fort Bend ISD has a volunteer outreach program called "Shared Dreams", which is specifically for the students who attend school in FBISD. The school nurse verifies that these students truly need help and provides the parent with the requisite form authorizing them to access the Shared Dreams facility. Only a few parents are allowed in at a time and they pick out shirts and a combo of shorts/long pants for boys, or skirts/shorts/long pants or dresses for girls, a jacket, one pair of gently used shoes and one pair of new tennis shoes.

Volunteers make up bags of toiletries for each child (which includes toothbrush and paste, underwear, socks, a brush/comb, mouthwash, deodorant, a razor or feminine products (desperately needed), soap, dental floss and some rolls of toilet paper. They can also get a backpack, basic school supplies and books (the parent can pick out 2 per child). Many families struggle to put food on their tables. Providing their children with clothes, shoes, a coat and toiletries for hygiene greatly helps that student do better in school, as they are better equipped and 'fit in'.

Students, NHS volunteer hours, the items donated need to be new and turned in to Ms. McElwee with the original purchase receipt for her to verify. For every \$10 dollars donated in items, you can get 1 service hour, up to a maximum of 4 hours.

For YES hours, please put the items, purchase receipt and completed YES form, along with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope TO YOU, in a sealed bag in the Shared Dreams box in the foyer or Commons. Once the donation has been verified, the form will be approved and mailed back to you. You still need to turn the form in if you wish to receive YES volunteer credit. Every \$10 dollars of NEW items purchased equals 1 hour of YES credit, UP TO A TOTAL OF 6 hours.

So clean out your closets or, if you can, purchase some of the items mentioned above. Please help by donating anything you can. Funds may also be donated (to help purchase what is needed) via checks payable to Shared Dreams (mail to: 1555 Independence Blvd., Missouri City, TX 77459)

For additional information, please contact Bobbie Steinert, Shared Dreams Center Facilitator @ 281-634-2916 or check out the website: <http://www.fortbendisd.com/comrel/shared.cfm>. If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please bag/box your donations and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with an itemized listing inside (listing each item and value), your name, address and phone number). Mrs. Steinert will complete the donor form and mail you back a copy.

REMEMBER---It takes a village and together we can make a difference!!

Melissa May, Elkins VIPS Shared Dreams Coordinator 281/438-7700