



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Major Drive for Personal Care Kits to Meet Local Needs
Partners For Wichita provides Bags of Blessing – A Remarkable Helping Project!**

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Wichita, KS, Wednesday, May 5, 2010 -- A bar of soap... shampoo... clean socks... snack crackers... packed in a plastic bag... personal care kits will make a world of difference to neighbors in need. These "Bags of Blessings" are being collected in churches and organizations across Wichita and the surrounding area.

An inter-denominational team of Partners for Wichita's Samaritan Community is asking congregations, groups, and individuals to assemble specific items, pack them in self-closing gallon-size plastic bags, and take them to the "Bags of Blessings" collection in June. The goal is to collect 1,000 "Bags of Blessings" to distribute to helping agencies in the area.

When Sister Rosa Cruz-Plaza of the Catholic Diocese Hispanic Ministries visited St. Anthony Home, she met mothers who said these personal care items would help them and their children make a fresh start in life. When Michelle Vann of Iases Christian Center visits Wichita Children's Home, she meets young people who will use these supplies to go to school clean and ready to learn. When Alice Burnett of Cross of Glory Lutheran Church talked with Derby Family Services Center, she learned that personal care items are much needed. At the Community Breakfast Program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a homeless man said that these items will help him to feel decent and respectable. Everyone sees these gifts as signs that people around Wichita care.

What is needed? Each personal care kit must contain all of these 16 items in very small/travel sizes: Bar soap, shampoo, lip balm, hand lotion, disposable razors, shaving cream, tooth brush, tooth paste, comb, deodorant, sunscreen, emery board, nail clippers, short white socks, wash cloth, individual snack bar/crackers. Pack them together in a self-closing one-gallon plastic bag. Please consider including African-American hair care products. If there is room in the bag, additional snack bars, pen and pad, or other necessities are welcome. Some groups are setting goals for the number of kits they will assemble. Everyone doing a little makes a big difference!

Donors may take the "Bags of Blessings" personal care kits to: St. John's Episcopal Church, 402 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS - June 11th & 25th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and June 12th & 26th 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This major "Bags of Blessings" project is led through Partners for Wichita's Samaritan Community, congregations working together as partners for peace/ Partners for Wichita is a not-for-profit organization. For more information and to say that you are collecting kits, contact Monica Ellis, monica.ellis@partnersforwichita.org or 316-207.3925.

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