Day of Action - At Home

Project Guide

Thank you for volunteering for United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County’s Day of Action! During this difficult time, it’s easy to feel isolated and helpless. By joining with United Way and others across the Greater San Antonio area, you will be serving your neighbors in need.

Below you will find the instructions, shopping lists, and required materials for each project, along with participating agencies to deliver completed kits. We recommend purchasing or acquiring all project materials prior to the project day.

Make Your Day of Action, A Day of Fun!

United Way advises all volunteers to abide by the CDC health and safety guidelines when shopping for, preparing your select projects, and delivering completed kits to agencies.

Here are some specific guidelines and tips for how to participate with Day of Action safely:

- Please wash your hands before starting to prepare the volunteer project(s) and ensure your workspace and all materials have been disinfected.
- Be sure to use social distancing and wear a mask while shopping for project supplies.
- When delivering your completed kits to an agency, wear a mask and follow the listed instructions. Each agency has procedures in place to ensure their safety and yours.

When you have completed all your projects, select an agency or agencies to receive your kits. Visit the Day of Action website, and you can find an up-to-date list of all participating agencies, locations, and which kits they have signed up to receive. Be sure to follow any listed instructions for how to safely deliver to your selected agency.

Questions?
If you have any questions about supplies or while making your kits, please contact United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County at volcenter@unitedwaysatx.org.
DIGITAL NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Share a special message for someone who is providing support and care during this challenging time. United Way will then provide the Thank You message to local hospitals, first responders, school districts, grocery retailers, food service industry, childcare centers, researchers/scientists, and small businesses.

Submit virtual notes here:

www.ThankSanAntonio.com

CARE CARDS

Spread positivity throughout San Antonio by donating handmade cards for homebound seniors or families in shelters. After months of social distancing, many are experiencing loneliness from staying at home, unable to see their loved ones. Care Cards are a family-friendly way to give the gift of a smile during difficult times. Made with a variety of craft supplies, this project is low cost and family friendly!

For budget friendly options, we recommend visiting your local dollar store for supplies.

Project Instructions:

1. Gather your card making supplies! You may have supplies at home to use or you can purchase supplies at H-E-B, a dollar store, or your favorite retail location.
2. Get inspired! Check out some awesome design ideas from online platforms such as Pinterest.
3. Design as many care cards as you would like.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, DAY OF ACTION!

Take a video or picture of the projects you selected and share why you are participating in Day of Action on social media. Be sure to tag @UnitedWaySA on Instagram/Twitter and @UnitedWaySATX on Facebook/LinkedIn.
BREAKFAST BAGS

Many senior citizens are currently homebound and may lack access to regular, nutritious meals. One way volunteers can help is by making breakfast bags, which is a shelf stable meal option that ensures the senior has access to food over the weekend or in a time of crisis. This project is low cost and easy to do for volunteers of all ages!

Supply List: Each bag includes one of each item listed below. You may make as many bags as you would like!

- 1 small box of raisins
- 1 packet of instant oatmeal
- 1 soft breakfast or granola bar
- 1 packet of prepackaged peanut butter crackers
- 1 dozen boiled eggs
- 1 – 6 ct. bag of bagels
- 1 – 15-18 oz. jar of peanut butter
- 1 brown paper bag and art supplies to decorate

Project Instructions:

1. Gather your supplies from a local store.
2. Decorate the paper bags with inspirational quotes, fun pictures, stickers, or other creative drawings. We encourage you to avoid religious content as our partner agencies serve a wide variety of individuals with varied faith backgrounds.
3. Put one of each food item in the bag. Fold the paper bag over and close it with a sticker or small piece of tape.

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BASIC NEEDS  PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

SNACK PACKS

During the school year, many families depend on school breakfast and lunch resources to feed their families during the week. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased financial difficulties and food insecurity for families across San Antonio. Snack Packs provide additional food resources for children while they are at home and social distancing for the summer.

Supply List: Place all the requested items in a gallon-sized storage bag. You may make as many bags as you would like!

- Single-serve, 6 oz pop-top cans of meat, pasta, fruit, corn, or green beans
- Granola bars
- 100% juice boxes
- Single-serve trail mix, nuts, or dried fruit
- Shelf-stable chocolate milk
- Single-serve boxes of cereal

Project Instructions:

1. Purchase supplies from H-E-B, Walmart, Costco, Sam’s Club, or your favorite retail location.
2. Decorate the storage bags with inspirational quotes, fun pictures, stickers, or other creative drawings. We encourage you to avoid religious or political content as our partner agencies serve a wide variety of individuals with varied backgrounds.
3. Put one of each food item in the bag and seal the bag.

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**SENIOR ACTIVITY KIT**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many seniors to feel isolated and lonely due to not being able to see their loved ones or engage in their normal daily activities. The Senior Activity Kit will provide local senior citizens with activities they can do from the safety of their home.

**Supply List:** Each gallon plastic bag includes one of each item listed below. You may make as many or as few bags as you choose.

- Activity Book (Example: word search, crossword puzzles, or sudoku)
- Adult puzzle
- Notebook
- Pens

**Project Instructions:**

1. Purchase the supplies from H-E-B, Walmart, or your favorite retail location. Shop at a dollar store for low-cost options.
2. Package each item from the supply list into a gallon-size plastic bag.
3. Add an encouraging note! (optional)

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**BIRTHDAY BAGS**

Families who are struggling financially often give up luxuries like birthday cakes. Items such as disposable cake pans or even birthday candles cannot be purchased with food stamps. It is very difficult for parents to tell their children that they cannot afford a birthday cake. Birthday bags are a simple way to make birthdays happy for these families. Completed bags will be distributed through shelters and nonprofit partners.

**Supply List:**

- Boxed cake mix, any flavor
- Pre-made frosting
- Pack of birthday candles
- Container of sprinkles
- 9 x 13 disposable cake pan (aluminum)
- Gender neutral birthday card
- Optional: balloons, birthday plates and napkins

**Project Instructions:**

1. Purchase supplies from H-E-B, Walmart, Costco, Sam’s Club, or your favorite retail location.
2. You can leave all purchased items in a grocery bag or place in a birthday bag.
**SHOEBOX PROJECT**

Provide personal care and basic need items to our most vulnerable residents. United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County will collect decorated shoeboxes filled with personal care and basic need items from individuals, families, and organizations in our community. Everyday items most of us take for granted, like toothbrushes, soap, or a comb can make a big difference for someone living in poverty or experiencing homelessness. During our current crisis, these items have become requested more than ever from service organizations.

**Supply List:** Each shoebox (gallon-sized storage bag is acceptable) should include one of the following requested items.

- Hair comb/brush
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Band Aids
- Soap/body wash
- Lotion

**Project instructions:**

1. Place all the items inside a shoebox or gallon-sized storage bag.
2. Decorate your shoebox or storage bags with inspirational quotes, fun pictures, stickers, or other creative drawings. We encourage you to avoid religious or political content as our partner agencies serve a wide variety of individuals with varied backgrounds.

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, DAY OF ACTION!**

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BOYSVILLE, INC.  
8555 E. Loop 1604 North  
Converse, TX 78109  
(210) 659-1901  

Drop-off: Tuesday and Thursday 11 am – 2 pm  
Projects: Birthday Bags

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
202 W. French Place  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
(210) 222-1294  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 9 am - 5 pm  
Projects: Birthday Bags, Breakfast Bags, Care Cards, Senior Activity Kit

GREATER RANDOLPH AREA SERVICES PROGRAM (GRASP)  
250 Donalan Drive  
Converse, Texas 78109  
Contact Name: Jason Petre  

Drop-off: Monday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm  
Projects: Care Cards, Senior Activity Kits

MEALS ON WHEELS SAN ANTONIO  
4306 NW Loop 410  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  

Drop-off: Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 3 pm  
Projects: Breakfast Bags, Care Cards, Senior Activity Kits

SALVATION ARMY  
METROPOLITAN AREA COMMAND  
521 W. Elmira  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
(210) 352-2000, Contact Name: Amanda Bishop  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm  
(Enter through the doors next to the flag poles)  
Projects: Birthday Bags, Care Cards, Senior Activity Kits

SAMMINISTRIES  
SAMMEXPRESS DONATION STATION  
910 Oblate Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
210-321-5639, Contact Name: Mari Reyes  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm  
Projects: Birthday Bags

SETON HOME  
1115 Mission Road  
San Antonio, TX 78210  
(210) 533-3504  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm  
Projects: Birthday Bags

SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK  
5200 Enrique M. Barrera Pkwy.  
San Antonio, TX 78227  
(210) 337-FOOD  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm  
Projects: Breakfast Bags, Snack Packs

Looking for a convenient place in your neighborhood to drop off your food donation to the Food Bank? All San Antonio area Goodwill stores and donation centers have a San Antonio Food Bank red barrel for your non-perishable food donations

UNITED WAY OF SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY  
700 S. Alamo  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 352-7077, Contact Name: Brandyn Moore-Rodriguez  

Drop-off: Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm  
Projects: Shoebox Project

Thank you for participating in the 2020 Day of Action! We appreciate your support of our local nonprofit agencies struggling through the added hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we LIVE UNITED.