



## Boxes of supplies for young adults aging out of foster care, to help launch them into independence

### HERE'S THE SCOOP:

Each year, nearly 1,000 youth in the state of Oregon age out of the foster care system. Launch Boxes provide a few basic necessities as these young adults transition out on their own for the first time.

A Launch Box is a lidded, plastic bin filled with basic supplies—such as towels, toiletries, and utensils—that will help young adults transition out of foster care to independent living. Specifically designed for young men and women (18 to 21 years old) without a traditional safety net, Launch Boxes are given to the young adult by a DHS worker as a tangible and practical gift from the community.

**Thank you for helping youth during a challenging transition time through this Launch Box!**

### HERE'S HOW TO PUT YOUR BOX TOGETHER

#### 1. Purchase a 40 QT Storage Tote, Tub, or Bin

#### 2. Fill it

Fill the box with all the items on the Essentials list, and at least 7 items on the Extras list to fill the box to the brim.

#### 3. Write a note

Tape a handwritten card inside the box's lid with an encouraging message such as:

"You are special"      "You are important"  
"You are cared about"      "Made for you with love"  
"You matter"

Your message should be easily visible and should not include religious language.

#### 4. Drop it off

Email [info@everychildpdx.org](mailto:info@everychildpdx.org) to get connected to your local Launch Box drop-off site.

**Please do not drop your box off at DHS.**



**WHAT GOES INSIDE:** Here is a simple guide for filling a Launch Box with creative, appropriate items. In addition to everything on the Essentials list, please select 7 additional items from Extras.

## ESSENTIALS

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- 2 plates
- 2 bowls
- 2 utensil sets
- 2 hand towels
- 2 bath towels
- Pillowcase
- Roll of paper towels
- Roll of toilet paper
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Small first aid kit
- Soap bar
- Can opener

## EXTRAS

Choose to include at least 7 additional items

- Gift cards
- Non-perishable food items
- A tool set
- Candles
- Picture frames

Please do **NOT** include any of the following items:

- Used items
- Holiday/seasonal items
- Hygiene items containing alcohol (mouthwash/hand sanitizer)
- Religious items
- Vitamins

**Launch Boxes are a great way for community groups to donate in a tangible, meaningful way and help a local young adult transition out of foster care. Items can be found at dollar stores and other discount retailers. Small groups can divide up the list and individuals can shop separately to contribute to one Launch Box.**



Every  
Child