

## Louisville Synagogue and Nonprofit Unite to Aid Foster Children

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In a commendable initiative, Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Louisville has partnered with Comfort Cases, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting children in foster care. This collaboration is delivering tangible support to some of the most vulnerable in society, providing essential items to foster children in Kentucky.

Volunteers at the synagogue have been diligently packing backpacks with necessities such as toothbrushes, shampoo, and soap. These seemingly small items carry profound significance, offering children a sense of being cared for and valued. Rhoda Faller, a volunteer involved in the effort, remarked in a recent interview, “Children in foster homes face immense challenges. Any effort to ease their burden, even slightly, is immensely rewarding.”

The initiative is driven by the stark realities of the foster care system, as outlined by Rob Scheer, the founder of Comfort Cases, who himself grew up in foster care. “In Kentucky alone, around 8,000 children are in the system, often given nothing more than a bin bag to carry their belongings. It strips them of hope and dignity,” Scheer explained in an interview. His organisation aims to counter this by providing backpacks filled with essentials, a small but meaningful gesture to restore a sense of value.

The partnership will see 250 comfort cases donated to local organisations, including Boys and Girls Haven and Home of the Innocents. Shelby Allen, Director of Outreach at Home of the Innocents, emphasised the critical need for such support. “We work daily to meet the needs of children and families, many of whom lack even the most necessities,” Allen stated. These donations will directly address those shortages, offering practical help to those in need.

Rabbi Scott Hoffman of Congregation Adath Jeshurun underscored the deeper impact of the initiative. “Knowing that your actions directly improve someone’s life, there’s no greater feeling,” he said in a recent interview. This sentiment reflects the synagogue’s commitment to fostering positive change within the community.

Nationwide, Comfort Cases has distributed 265,000 backpacks to children in foster care, a testament to the scale of their mission. Scheer’s vision is clear: “Investing in a child is an investment in our future,” he noted. This partnership in Louisville is a powerful example of how communities can come together to make a difference, one backpack at a time.