

**Kadens Kloset First Night Bags**Kadens Kloset ‘First Night Bags’ are a luggage item filled with immediate necessities for children and teens entering into Foster Care.

Often, the first night is the hardest for a foster child. The child does not know where they will be sleeping and often times leaves with only the clothes on their back. Many times, the child doesn’t receive any other items from home (if they get any at all) until after the first 24- 48 hours. This leaves children without bare essentials.

With our First Night Bags, we can help relieve some of that initial burden. Children receiving one of our Kadens Kloset bags will have all of the essential items they will need to get through the next 24-48 hours, including a comfort item. Our hope is that every child entering care has access to and receives a KK First Night Bag.

Bags will be packed and labeled according to sex and age, and then distributed to area social workers who will ensure that children in their jurisdiction receive a bag on their very first night upon being removed/moved from their home or current situation. In order to continually be able to provide KK First Night Bags, we hope to encourage our communities, churches, local organizations and area businesses to engage in “drives” to help support, collect and provide the materials and items for our bags.

A Kadens Kloset representative can help spearhead donation drives, speak at donation drive events, help participants understand the need for this resource, and help with fundraising ideas! Organizations are also encouraged to make and pack their own First Night Bags which can be donated to Kadens Kloset who will distribute them to family service providers in the area.

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**A Kadens Kloset First Night Bag includes**:

* A diaper bag, backpack, duffel bag or suitcase (age appropriate)
* A toothbrush and toothpaste
* Toiletry items (age appropriate) such as:
	+ shampoo
	+ body wash
	+ hairbrush or comb
	+ deodorant
	+ hygiene needs
* A new pair of pajamas
* A new package of underwear
* A new package of socks
* A new change of clothes
* A blanket and stuffed animal (comfort item)
* A book and/or small toy
* A note of encouragement
* An invitation to shop at Kadens Kloset

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