

A Blessing in a Bag

Outcomes



- Create bags of love for people in need.
- Reflect on needs in your community.
- Align your 3Ts to meeting needs.
- Reflect on how it feels to be a philanthropist.

Materials Needed



- Paper or plastic bags
- Various supplies depending on purpose of bags. Examples include: snacks, socks, water bottles, hygiene items, first aid, etc.

Connect

5-10 Minutes



You are a philanthropist! If you're not sure what that is yet, play the ["What is Philanthropy?" video](#) from the OtterCares Foundation. Complete Part One of the worksheet to ground yourself in why you might create a blessing in a bag.

Engage

20-60 Minutes



Complete Part Two of the worksheet.

- ♥ *This is a time to really dig in and think about the people in our community who are the most vulnerable. Often it is our neighbors experiencing homelessness or housing and food insecurity. If you don't immediately see those needs in your community, research your local government online or [United Way](#) to learn more about nonprofits in your area and what they are doing to meet needs.*
- ♥ *If you're stuck on what to put into the bags, see what your local shelter or other communities recommend. [Portland Rescue Mission's needed items](#) has good tips that might apply in your area, too.*

Complete Part Three of the worksheet.

- ♥ *Now that you've identified needs and built your bags, how will you distribute them? It may be appropriate to hand them out in public as you see community members in need, or it may be safer to donate all of your bags to a local shelter. Some churches and nonprofits set up larger [Blessing Boxes](#), so your bags could be a great addition. Be sure to do your research to make sure you're providing what is needed!*

Leave Changed

5-15 Minutes



- ♥ Reflect on your project and write down what you're thinking and feeling.
- ♥ Continue the impact by sharing with others! Use #projectheart on social media, share the great work you're doing, and inspire others to do the same. Send your story to info@ottercares.org along with some photos, for a chance to be featured on our social media channels.



A Blessing in a Bag

1. You are a Philanthropist!

What problem do you see for people that need a Blessing in a Bag? List what you see:

Why is it important to help other people that have less than you do?

Which one of your 3Ts are you using to make your blessing bag? Circle the ones you think you are using, then write a few examples of HOW you are using that T:

TIME	TALENT	TREASURE

2. Build your Blessing Bag!

Think about the size of your bags, then identify items needed. This about what you already have at home or could easily get the next time you're at the store. List all the items you will put in each bag. Use this space to make your plan:



How many Blessing Bags did you make?

Hmm...there is something missing from your Bag. Oh! How about a nice card or note! What are some things you can write in a card or note to help someone smile? If using paper bags, write and draw on those. List five nice things you could say:

3. Get Your Bags Out There!

How are you going to get your Blessing Bags to others? If you are going to give them to an organization, what organization will you donate your Blessing Bags to? What does this organization do? Why did you choose to donate to this organization? If you are giving you Blessing Bags in a different way, explain what you are doing and why you chose to give your Blessing Bags this way.

4. Putting it all together – Reflect on your project! Choose at least two of the questions to answer in your reflection below.

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