THE ART OF GIVING

CHILDRENS’ MERCY HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Your gifts go a long way toward brightening a child's hospital stay.
- The Art of Giving offers suggestions that for you, or your organization, to collect, purchase, or make. These items may be used to reward a patient after the completion of a special procedure, to help celebrate a birthday or holiday, or to supply activity areas. If you prefer, items may be purchased from cash contributions.
- Because Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics is non-denominational, we ask all donors to respect the beliefs of our patients by not including religious gifts.
- Help us keep our patients safe by only donating items that are new, sturdy and safe, non-toxic, non-violent, and do not contain latex.
- Holiday donations should be delivered by December 15th. Please do not wrap the items.
- Donations can be dropped off at the main hospital, at 2401 Gillham Road, in the Volunteer Services office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- If you have any questions regarding donations or delivery of donations, please call Children’s Mercy Hospital Volunteer Services department at (816) 234-3496.

Volunteer Services
ITEMS TO COLLECT OR PURCHASE

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW

Fill the treasure boxes of Children’s Mercy

When children come to a clinic appointment, urgent care, or the emergency room, they are often hurting, stressed, and scared. Our treasure boxes are one way we can tell children that we know what they are going through isn’t easy. Treasure box items include Hot Wheels cars, small stuffed animals, and other small toys/trinkets.

Give patients positive coping tools

When undergoing medical procedures, children can help themselves relax and cope positively by blowing bubbles or pinwheels, looking at picture books, listening to a calming music CD, or playing with sound and light toys. We strive to make these items available to any patient in need, which means we need many coping tools!

Let patients express and create

Patients of appropriate ages are offered a daily art activity or game. Crayons, coloring books, markers, glue, construction paper, paint, and stickers are just some of the supplies patients use everyday at Children’s Mercy. We provide as many art supplies as possible so patients can express themselves, strengthen their fine motor skills, and just be “kids”.

Support the needs of teen patients

Even though our hospital is named “Children’s Mercy”, don’t forget that numerous teenage patients visit us everyday. We utilize backpacks, purses, journals, magazines, model cars/planes, sports paraphernalia, nail polish, lip gloss/makeup, bath and body kits and small gift certificates to local stores to recognize and meet the unique needs of teens.

Provide tender loving care

Numerous infants and toddlers come to Children’s Mercy, and special equipment is needed to help us provide the best care for babies. Please be aware that infant items must be easily cleanable, and that fabric or plush items are not appropriate for infant use at our hospital. Hard, plastic self contained toys are most useful (stacking, sorting, sound and light toys) in providing stimulation to and developing motor skills in the smallest of our guests.
Clothing Items

New clothing items are used to provide patients with appropriate clothing while they are at the hospital and/or for returning home. A variety of sizes is needed and gender neutral is preferred.

1. Hats and Mittens
2. Sweatshirts and Sweatpants
3. Socks and Underwear
4. T-shirts and Shorts
5. Infant Onsies and Sleepers

Books

New and gently used books (no older than 1985) must be in good condition. Textbooks, encyclopedias, dictionaries, used activity books, and books with religious or violent themes are discouraged. We can accept books for a variety of ages including:

1. Board books
2. Chapter books
3. Picture books
4. Interactive books with sounds and flaps
5. Books in English and Spanish

Magazines for Teen Patients

Help us provide our teenage patients with reading material appropriate for their unique needs and developmental level by donating a magazine subscription that can be distributed among the inpatient units. Subscriptions can be ordered online and delivered directly to our hospital by using this address:

Children’s Mercy Hospital – Child Life Department
2401 Gillham Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

*Seventeen
seventeen.com

*ESPN
ESPNMagazine.com

*Spin Magazine
spin.com

*Teen Vogue
teenvogue.com

*Sports Illustrated
sportsillustrated.cnn.com
Gift Cards

We always accept and appreciate $5 gift cards to local stores where toys, music and movies can be purchased. Transportation and communication between the hospital and home can be a challenge for some of our families. You can help by providing phone cards or gasoline gift cards.

Items to Make

We ask that ALL handmade cloth items be freshly laundered to meet Infection Control guidelines.

- To insure the safety of our patients, handmade items should not have small removable pieces that are easily pulled off.
- Pattern information for the following hand-made items is available upon request from Volunteer Services (816) 234-3496.

1. **Toy/Book Bags:** A durable cotton duck fabric is recommended, but patients also enjoy colorful print fabrics. Bags are approximately 14" x 16" and include a drawstring or attached handles.
2. **Infant Caps and Booties:** All sizes are needed. Cap guidelines for babies in our Intensive Care Nursery are available upon request.
3. **Medical Play Dolls:** These dolls are used to help hospitalized children express their feelings. The poly-filled fabric doll has a blank face and body to allow the children to draw on it. Guidelines for patterns are available upon request.
4. **Quilts/Blankets:** Blankets are comforting to hospitalized children. They should be made of colorfast machine washable material. Quilts should measure approximately 40" x 32".

Special Projects for Special Groups

Any group project is welcome all during the year. If you or your group has a project you would like to do for the children, visit our website: [www.childrensmercy.org/volunteer](http://www.childrensmercy.org/volunteer)
Click on “Corporate Volunteers”, or call Volunteer Services at 816-234-3496.
HOW TO GIVE

All donations must be delivered to the Volunteer Services Office
Ground floor, Outpatient Center, Room 0600.

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Call in advance to arrange weekend or after-hours delivery.

Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics
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2401 Gillham Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

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