



The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

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www.homelessinfo.org

May 24, 2011

Dear Friend,

As a dentist, you might be surprised to receive a letter from the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH). But there's a good reason.

Every fall, SKCCH's Project Cool for Back-to-School provides hundreds of backpacks to homeless children between the ages of 4 and 18 who are starting school. Each child and teen receives a new backpack filled with high quality school supplies, along with a gift certificate for new shoes. Two other key items that we include in every Project Cool backpack are a toothbrush and toothpaste.

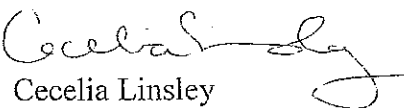
Many studies have shown that homeless children fare worse on a variety of health indicators. Homeless children have been found to have 10 times the rate of poor dentition as the general population, and to visit the dentist's office less than half as often¹. It's a small step, but by helping equip homeless children and youth with toothbrushes and toothpaste, we can make a difference in a crucial part of health -- basic oral hygiene.

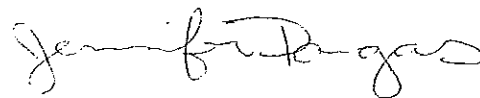
Project Cool is contacting dentist's offices all over King County. **Can you help support children and families who are experiencing homelessness with a contribution of toothbrushes and/or toothpaste to Project Cool between now and July 31st, 2011?** Right now, we need about 300 more toothbrushes, and at least 1,000 more small tubes of toothpaste. Here are some things to know:

- We ask that you commit to contributing at least 50 units of whichever item you choose. All toothbrushes must be individually wrapped.
- We will pick up items from you when ready, or you can drop them off on one of three drop-off dates towards the end of July. Please contact Danny for details (see below).
- Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. All donors will be acknowledged in our 2010 Project Cool Report.

Project Cool is a volunteer-powered project of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH), one of oldest homeless coalitions in the United States. If you are interested in donating toothbrushes or toothpaste to Project Cool this year, please contact Danny at danny@homelessinfo.org or (206) 357-3149. Thank you for your generous support to help homeless students and families.

Sincerely,


Cecelia Linsley
Project Cool Co-Chair


Jennifer Pargas
Project Cool Co-Chair

¹ Karr, Catherine. *Homeless Children: What Every Health Care Provider Should Know*. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Web. <<http://www.nhchc.org/Children/>>.

The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) works collaboratively to ensure the safety and survival of people who are homeless, and to end the crisis of homelessness in our region.