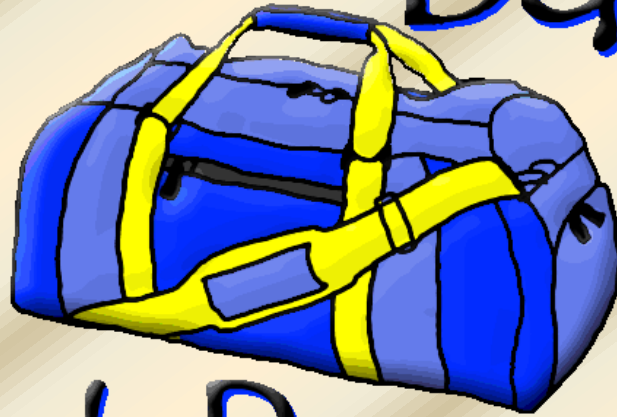


Bags



Not Rags

2010 Volunteer Package



Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Contact Information	4
Overview	5
Questions and Answers	7
Volunteer Application	8
Drop-off Locations.....	9
Core Principles	10



Welcome

Dear Volunteer

Thank you so much for your interest in helping Bags Not Rags whose mission is to eliminate the practice of children entering foster care using trash bags as luggage. Bags Not Rags is pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with an introduction to the organization through this Volunteer Package.

You may have some questions about becoming a Bags Not Rags Volunteer. We hope this package will answer your questions. Should you wish further clarification, please call your Volunteer State Manager or our main office at 888-868-4952. You will find contact information on page four of this package.





Contact Information

Corporate Office

Andres Viteri 888-868-4952 andres@bagsnotrags.com
Executive Director

Mindy Viteri 888-868-4952 mindy@bagsnotrags.com
Director of Operations

Colorado

Ule Logue 720-384-3784 ulogue@msn.com
Volunteer Area Bags Not Rags Representative

Louisiana

Mindy Viteri 888-868-4952 mindy@bagsnotrags.com
Area Bags Not Rags State/National Representative

Ohio

Heather Lawrence 937-829-8573 ohio@bagsnotrags.com
Volunteer State Program Manager

Please call for further contacts including drop-off locations and social services contacts.



Overview

What is Bags Not Rags?

Bags not Rags' mission is to eventually ensure that no child in foster care ever uses a trash bag as luggage again. Per [the Administration for Children & Families](#)

- On September 30, 2008, there were an estimated 463,000 children in foster care.
- The average age of children in Foster Care is 9.7 Years of Age
- The average number of months in foster care was 27.2
- Of those 463,000 children in foster care, only 49% were reunified with their original families

Confusion, Fear, Pain.....Hope

It is bad enough for a child to leave everything he or she knows and loves, but then to have all of their belonging placed into a trash bag places a feeling of worthlessness on top of it all. We at Bags not Rags know that we ALL cannot adopt or foster children. There are circumstances that prevent us from doing such (money, time, marital status, history) but we want you to know that you can still help. Donate a bag or funds to purchase bags to our organization and we will ensure that it goes to a child in the foster care system.

We have teamed up with social services and other child organizations to distribute luggage-style bags to those individuals with the horrible responsibility of taking children from their homes and placing them in foster care. We keep things simple so we are able to provide these bags free of charge to these workers and the children they help.

Please help Bags Not Rags eliminate the chance that a child in foster care will EVER have to carry their belongings in a trash bag ever again.

Bags Not Rags History

Bags Not Rags was founded by Mindy and Andres "Andrew" Viteri. The Viteri's focus for support and charity is children. The Shreveport Saver, Inc supports organizations like World Mission who offers support to children in need all over the world. Because of this focus, foster children seemed the strongest need in their community.

Because of their circumstances, the Viteri's are unable to foster children and understand that there are many others in their situation, so they decided to find a specific need and fill it. When they heard about the standard practice of offering trash bags to children as luggage they decided that something had to be done. With this in mind, they decided to form a nonprofit organization to collect, purchase and distribute luggage-style bags to these children to help ease what is already a horrible situation for foster children.

Social Services is underfunded and the pay for social service workers is not near high enough for the jobs they do full-heartedly. With this in mind, there is no way for them to give these children everything they



wish they could. We know that many give out of their own pockets just to help children but there are too many to help them all. This is where we step in.

There are many holes in our system. If we can each find one small hole and plug it, we would provide the best life possible for children in foster care.

What is a Bags Not Rags Volunteer?

There are various ways to volunteer with Bags Not Rags. We maintain simplicity and flexibility as best we can. We encourage all ages to volunteer as there is something for everyone. Please see a list of types of volunteer positions below.

Spread the word

- Tell your friends and family about our mission
- Talk to community groups about conducting drives, education about the foster system and the lives and difficulties of foster children, and awareness about needs and support
- Talk to your public officials about the needs of foster children including bags, toys, clothes, etc.

Online

- E-mail our information to your address book
- Follow us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/bagsnotrags) @ <http://www.facebook.com/bagsnotrags>
- [Share your story](#) about being a foster child, foster parent, or just your comments about the system in general on our website share page

Time

- Drivers (To pick up and drop off bags). We keep the distance limited and this is at your time and discretion. We call each driver in an area until one is able to perform the task needed.
- Administrative needs (To help with mailers, emails, calls, etc)
- Speakers (To help spread the word about this cause and the foster system in general) – speak to schools, organizations, civic groups, businesses in your area, and your community
- Fund Raisers – Our organization is simple so the cost is as minimal as possible; however, we still have financial needs for administration, drop-off bin purchases, advertising and awareness, and bag purchases.



Questions and Answers

1. Where are you located?

We are a nation-wide organization with corporate offices located in Shreveport, Louisiana. A list of drop-off locations are location on our website and included in this packet.

2. How can I get this started in my town/region/state?

- (1) We need a drop-off location to get started anywhere
- (2) Call the corporate office with the drop-off location and we will contact social services in your area to alert them of the soon-to-be inflow of bags to fill their needs
- (3) Find Volunteers in the community to pick-up/drop-off bags
- (4) Find a local volunteer representative for the organization. This is mainly for the media. We handle all media relations at the corporate office; however, most media groups require a local contact to note to the public before running any stories about the organization.
- (5) Find a Volunteer State Program Manager. This position is not necessary to work in your community. This helps with the communication within each state.

3. What types of bags do you accept?

Gently used or new luggage, duffel bags, totes, back packs, laptop bags, diaper bags, purses, etc Basically anything these children can use rather than a trash bag. We DO take items with logos; however, we do ask that bags with names on them are corrected before distribution by either removing embroidered names or creativity drawing over "marker" written names. If the name is not removable, we are unable to use the bag.

4. Is this a seasonal program?

Absolutely not. These children are always in need. Social services, on average in the US, enter 852 children into the system each day. This is a great need and is not going anywhere soon.

5. Do you put anything in the bags?

We ask that our volunteers NOT fill the bags. There are other organizations that handle situations where children do not have personal belongings and are in need of general items. Our organization is designed for those children who are in need of the bags. To fill the bags causes the cost of the organization to rise to the point where we are unable to reach as far across the country as we desire.

6. What if someone asks me if we take anything other than bags?

We get this question all the time and we like that people are asking. We respond with "We do not accept anything other than bags, BUT, your local social services is ALWAYS happy to receive such items." We then offer them the local social services contact information. If needed, contact our corporate office for this information.

7. How do we accept monetary donations (money)?

We ask that all monetary donations come through the corporate office. Please refer them to our (1-888) number and we will be happy to speak with them.



Volunteer Application

Please complete the information below and return to _____

Email address: _____ or Fax _____

YOUR DETAILS

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____ Relation _____

Please select the box(es) that apply to the type of volunteer position you are interest in

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raiser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admin | <input type="checkbox"/> Area Volunteer Rep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer State Program Manager |

Volunteer Waiver

By participating as a Volunteer for Bags Not Rags, you agree to the following:

1. Represent to Bags Not Rags that you are in physical health suitable to the position you have chosen.
2. Bags Not Rags, nor its presenters, staff and volunteers involved in any organizing of events or collection, storage, or distribution of collected items shall have any liability for any injury or harm caused to you.
3. Bags Not Rags may videotape, audiotape or photograph you, and Bags Not Rags retains the rights to use these items, and may employ any or all of these for all commercial or non-commercial purposes with you payment to you of any kind and without further notice to you or permission from you.

I have read, I understand, and as an inducement to Bags Not Rags to allow me to participate as a volunteer, I agree to the foregoing.

Signature _____ Date _____



Current Drop-Off Locations

State	Company Name	Region	Contact
E-mail	Number	Address	City, State, Zip
Arkansas		Jacksonville	Amy Bangerezako
Amybangerezako@gmail.com	(501) 650-3681	143 Michigan Circle	Jacksonville, AR
California		Sacramento	Nick Lopez
nick.lopez@phoenix.edu		2890 Gateway Oaks Drive STE 100	Sacramento, CA
Louisiana	CHRISTUS Schumpert Wellness Center	Bossier City	
	(318) 848-2900	2541 Viking Drive	Bossier City, La
	BPCC	Bossier City	
		6220 East Texas Street	Bossier City, La
	Greenwood Chamber of Commerce	Greenwood	
		9371 Greenwood Rd	Greenwood, La
	Desoto Parish Chamber of Commerce	Mansfield	
		115 North Washington Ave	Mansfield, La
	Vantage Health Plan, Inc	Monroe	
		130 Desiard St #300	Monroe, La 71201
	Carter Services Plus	Shreveport	Mindy Viteri
	(888) 868-4952	6210 Fairfield Ave STE B	Shreveport, La
	CHRISTUS Schumpert Wellness Center	Shreveport	
		9425 healthplex Drive	Shreveport, La
	Northwester State University Shreveport's Student Nurses Association	Shreveport	Jane Greer
	(318) 455-9457	1800 Line Ave	Shreveport, La
	Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce	Shreveport	Laurel Lightfoot
	(318) 677-2500	400 Edwards St	Shreveport, La
Mississippi	Sycamore Tree Homeschool	Holly Springs	Carol Chenault
chenyckc@bellsouth.net	662-851-0209 or 901-692-4205	221 Pleasant Hill Dr	Holly Springs, MS
Missouri		Joplin	Bob Heath
heath.bob@occ.edu		1111 N. Main St	Joplin, MO
Montana		Butte	Crystal Rutan
	406-494-4213	1451 Dewey Blvd	Butte, MT
Ohio		Piqua	Michelle Barnes
chloejustus14@yahoo.com	(937) 570-6735	423 Pinwood Ave	Piqua, OH
Texas	Odessa College Library	Odessa	Donna Clark
donnajoclarke@yahoo.com	(432) 664-1575	210 W. University	Odessa, TX



Core Principles

Bags Not Rags is committed to continue its practices for as long as possible, eventually ensuring that NO child in the United State foster care system ever uses a trash bag as luggage ever again. To this end, as long as cities provide “drop-off locations” we will continue to expand this organization until our mission has succeeded. Once in place, we must sustain awareness of this need in our system. Children will forever be placed into foster care; we must be there to provide for them where we can.

Bags Not Rags supports our Social Service departments, workers, and volunteers. We know that many times social service workers and supporters give of their own pockets to provide for these children. Most Social Services departments are underfunded and overworked and we want to thank them all for their hard work, selfless acts, and support of our children.

Bags Not Rags believes that ALL children in our foster care system are special and deserve the same respect, love and attention as any other child in the United States. Gone should be the days of the stigmas that all foster children are delinquent, uncontrollable, or beyond help. Most of these children only want love and most have yet to see a “normal” household. Is it their fault that they were born in less than adequate situations? They deserve an optimistic view of who they are and what they are capable of.

Bags Not Rags’ main focus is the collection and distribution of new or used luggage-style bags to the social services departments within the same region as the collection points and shall maintain this focus above any other needs. Though we know the needs are great and vary, to maintain focus and to ensure our mission remains true, our collection efforts, time, and focus must remain on the collection and distribute of these bags.