



## The Family's "Help for the Homeless" Hygiene Drive Stories and Thanks Sampler

- **First, she lost her health, then her job, her insurance, and then her home.** Most of her money was going towards medications. She was living out of her car with no money for extras. **When I gave her tampons, toothpaste, a toothbrush, soap and shampoo, she began to cry - stating that she'll no longer have to use toilet paper for feminine needs.** - Crystal G., Partnership Community Health Center, Appleton
- **"Growing up in extreme poverty, I was picked on for the way I smelled, and for my ratty hair.** When my 5th grade teacher gave me a stick of deodorant (my first), some shampoo and soap - the very idea of having my own shampoo to wash my hair was AMAZING! And deodorant! I thought that odor was just something bad about myself that I couldn't fix. The idea that this 'thing' was created that I could put under my arms to make the smell go away, oh my goodness! **A life changing event!"** - Elizabeth Steffel, Villa Hope Case Mgr.
- "I have a student living in 3 different houses, but none of them really feel like home. Mom is MIA and dad is incarcerated 'somewhere down south.' Going between 3 places, really means she never has what she needs when she needs it and often feels embarrassed about not being able to care for herself properly. **Aside from school personnel, she really has no safe and trusted adult who she can turn to. We gave her a purse with her own hygiene products** (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine products) that she could strap onto her backpack and carry with her between addresses...also if she misplaces something we have product for backup. She really appreciates all of the support from the H4H Drive." -Elizabeth Webb, Green Bay Public School District
- **"They believed in me and gave me food and space at the warming shelter to sleep.** Not only that, but they also gave me soap, deodorant, a razor and shampoo before my interview for the job that I desperately needed. I would not be employed if not for their help and the services they provide." -Michael, client at Evergreen Community Initiative, Stevens Point
- **"I overcame despair and destruction with the help of my friends at the Salvation Army after a devastating divorce** that left me and my 6-month-old child homeless with nothing more than our car and clothes. They helped me find a tiny apartment, a job, and got me started with supplies like diapers, laundry soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste. They gave me the impression that I was worthy of these things. That's a donation you would call priceless. Thanks to them, families like mine don't have to feel poor because we have clean clothes and toilet paper. Without this generosity on the part of the Salvation Army, that is our reality." - Nadia, young mom
- **"It is great that there is a place in the community where I can come to take a shower.** I appreciate that they give me soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush. I keep the shower bag they give me and use it each time I come for a shower. Even though I

live on the street, I like to be clean. These shower kits help me make it through several weeks. Thank you.” Guest, The Salvation Army Green Bay

- **“I had a family living in someone’s garage and walking to the nearby gas station to brush teeth and wash up each AM and PM.** Mom just bawled in my office about how daily living was just so hard. We gave them hygiene supplies from *Help for the Homeless*...soap, shampoo, lotion, dental care. **You would have thought it was Christmas for this family.... mom was so excited and couldn't believe they could clean themselves with actual soap and use their own deodorant.** We also worked out a plan with the host family to allow some bathroom time. *The things we take for granted!*” - Elizabeth Webb, Green Bay Schools Homeless children and youth
- **“People come to us when they have nowhere else to turn for help.** They’re often at the lowest point in their lives, and report feeling scared, depressed, embarrassed and inadequate. They have been reduced to tears when presented with shampoo, diapers, deodorant or other items that we so often take for granted. The generous response to the Help for the Homeless campaign shows our community’s capacity to care and share.” - Mary Parsons, Exec. Director LEAVEN
- **“It is a bittersweet thing to see tears of gratitude for a bottle of shampoo and a stick of deodorant;** like the homeless woman who whispered her thanks with great relief, saying she wouldn’t have to be embarrassed by the way she looked or smelled any more. **It is a beautiful thing** to see how a little bit of thoughtfulness and a couple of dollars can touch the heart of someone in need. Gestures of kindness for people who are hanging on, day-by-day, provide the measure of hope and self-respect that they need to keep going on.” - Angela Cheslock., LSS Wellspring
- **“Just laid off, with a baby due any day, I knew we’d have watch every penny to make it until I was employed again. Picking up the hygiene supplies that included laundry soap and diapers...it was beyond a blessing! It took me from a place of panic to a place of hope. I cannot express my gratitude enough.”** – Ryan Community Client
- **“It’s not unusual for middle and high school students to skip school because they’re embarrassed about the way they look or smell. If they don’t have shampoo to wash their hair, or laundry soap to clean their clothes, they’re not going to fit in. The shampoo, laundry soap, and deodorant that you donate prevents children from being picked on for smelling bad or having dirty clothes and helps them stay in school. Thank you!”** – School Social Worker
- **“He had nothing.** We were able to give him clothing, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream, razor and a hot lunch. He wanted to be prepared for job searching the next day. He was so happy, but most of all thankful – **the tears in his eyes said it all...along with his very emotional ‘thank you.’**” - Karen VanderWielen, The Salvation Army

The Family’s “Help for the Homeless” hygiene drive is an annual event, supporting 80+ crisis programs and the people they serve in 15 Wisconsin communities. More at [TheFamily.net](http://TheFamily.net) or 800-236-9364.