



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**It's Holiday Giveback Time at the North Suburban YMCA**  
*Collecting Donations for People Experiencing Homelessness*

**Northbrook, IL; November 2022:** The North Suburban YMCA's Social Responsibility Committee has kicked-off its annual Holiday Giveback Drive and subsequent Packing Event. During the month of November, the Y is collecting essential items for "Blessing Bags" to donate to people experiencing homelessness, and hosting a volunteer event on December 10 from 12- 1 pm where volunteers will be packing the items into bags. The "Blessing Bags" will be distributed by Project I Am, a non-profit organization that distributes essentials to people experiencing homelessness.

To fill each Blessing Bag, the NSYMCA is asking for donations of baby wipes, mini-bottled waters, pairs of socks, Neosporin packets, travel-size Vaseline, toothbrush, toothpaste, alcohol wipes, band-aids, travel-sized shampoo and conditioner, washcloths, pocket tissues, granola bars or trail mix, and peppermints. All donations can be dropped off at the Y's front desk through December 9<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations are also accepted; the Y staff will shop for the needed items. The NSYMCA's goal for 2022 is to have 250+ Blessing Bags.

"Our annual Holiday Giveback event makes a huge difference in the lives of the less fortunate, and unites us in our shared humanity," said Jerry Nolan, a two-year committee member of the NSYMCA Social Responsibility Committee. "I am honored to be part of this organization and the social responsibility arm of its mission. I have seen first-hand how much these events and donations impact and help people experiencing the hardship of homelessness."

Earlier this month, the Y collected leftover Halloween candy and donated it to the Kids Pantry in Mount Prospect, Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, Souper Saturday Soup Kitchen in Evanston, and C 24/7 in Chicago. In addition, the Y is collecting children's coats, gloves, hats and undergarments for local school nurse stations in the Great Lakes and Wheeling School Districts. Through its partnerships, the Y's Social Responsibility Committee learned that many children come to school without warm necessities needed during the cold winter months of school. Having a plethora of warm items in a school's nurses office ensures that every child has warm items for walking to school and going to recess.

“Not one child should ever worry about how to stay warm when walking to school or being on the playground, so our Y took action with this donation drive and plan to help every year” said Karen Brownlee, the Y’s Social Responsibility Chair. “Even though our Y is a non-profit ourselves, our mission is to help other non-profits in our community, making sure we do our part to strengthen families and communities.”

For more information about the Blessing Bag packing day, or to volunteer or make a donation, visit [nsymca.org](http://nsymca.org) or call 847-272-7250.

About the [North Suburban YMCA](#)

The North Suburban YMCA services Northbrook and 14 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help its residents become healthier, more connected, and confident, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The NSYMCA focuses on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility and is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at [NSYMCA.org](http://NSYMCA.org).



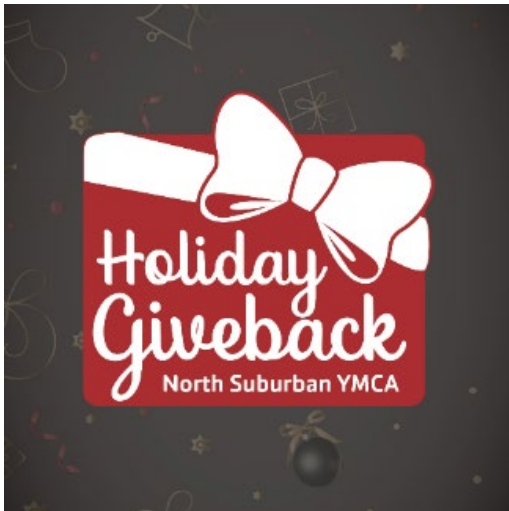
***Caption: Packing “Blessing Bags” at the 2021 NSYMCA Holiday Giveback event.***



***Caption: A family creating personal messages for the “Blessing Bags” at the 2021 NSYMCA Holiday Giveback event.***



***Caption: Shannon Sliwinski and Sean Fielding, pack "Blessing Bags" at the 2021 Holiday Giveback.***



***Caption: The NSYMCA's Social Responsibility Committee is hosting a Holiday Giveback Drive and Packing Day event to donate "Blessing Bags" to people experiencing homelessness.***

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