

Hosting a Hope & Comfort Hygiene Drive

Thank you for your interest in hosting a hygiene product collection drive to help Hope & Comfort deliver essential hygiene products to youth and families in need throughout Greater Boston. Below is more information about the collection drive experience, and some tips on how to get started. For more information, please reach out to amacdonald@hopeandcomfort.org or 617-795-1608. We appreciate your support. Happy collecting!

Step-By-Step Guide to Hosting a Hygiene Drive

1. Select your drive location and date.

A drive can last a day, a week, a month...or even be ongoing! Pick a duration and a drive location that works for you and your community.

2. Register your drive with Hope & Comfort.

Visit www.hopeandcomfort.org/contact and send us a note to register your drive. Knowing that you are leading a hygiene drive means we can reach out to offer assistance, as well as allows us to publicize your work and say thanks for your efforts!

3. Spread the Word

Tell your community about Hope & Comfort's mission and encourage them contribute to your product collection. Depending on where and how you're collecting, you might consider using email, social media, newsletters, flyers, and more!

4. Collect!

Make sure your collection bins are in place, and watch the products roll in! Continue spreading the word, and encourage your drive participants to do the same.

**Psst! Need a collection bin? You can decorate a box or bin of your choosing as creatively as you'd like - we'd love to see you design! Or, contact Hope & Comfort to borrow a readymade bin from us.*

***Psst again! If you send a photo to Hope & Comfort of your hygiene drive in action, we'd love to use it to help spread the word about your efforts, as well as give you a shout-out on social media!*

5. Deliver products to Hope & Comfort

Contact Abby MacDonald at 617-795-1608 or AMacDonald@hopeandcomfort.org to set up a time to drop off your collection at our warehouse in Needham, MA. If you need products to be picked up at your location, Abby can also discuss this with you. We can't wait to see what you collect - thank you!

Hygiene Drive FAQs

What is Hope & Comfort's mission?

Our mission is to provide essential hygiene products to support and improve the health, self-esteem, and hygiene education of school-aged children and young adults in need within Greater Boston. In 2019, we distributed 500,000 items. In 2020, we anticipate distributing 1 million products!

What products do you accept?

We accept any unused, unexpired hygiene items. Our most popular items include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, pads and tampons, floss, and conditioner...but we'll gladly accept any hygiene products you collect!

What products do you need most today?

Our most-needed items are currently toothpaste, unisex deodorant, and sulfate-free shampoo.

Can I see a wishlist of products? What about a virtual drive?

Sometimes collecting products on-site can be cumbersome, so we encourage virtual contributions as well as in-person drop-offs! You can promote virtual hygiene products in the same ways detailed here, but instead of dropping products in a bin, participants purchase the items on our Amazon wishlist, which are then sent directly to Hope & Comfort's warehouse. Our wishlist can be seen here: <http://a.co/9OuDiqm>.

Are travel or sample size products OK?

The majority of the products we distribute are full-size. However, we are glad to accept smaller-sized items, which are perfect for shelters and short-term programs.

What if some of the products in my collection look questionable?

If a product is clearly used, expired, or has significant spillage, please remove and recycle it accordingly. For all other products, even ones you are unsure about, we'll gladly take a look! We have volunteers at our warehouse who inspect every product before it goes out, and Hope & Comfort takes ultimate responsibility for ensuring that any items we distribute are safe and dignified.

Where are Hope & Comfort's products distributed?

Items are distributed throughout Greater Boston and MetroWest, including to schools, youth organizations, food pantries, and more! See the full list here: www.hopeandcomfort.org/what-we-do/hygiene-distribution.

What's the best way to market my hygiene drive?

An email to staff/parents/students/colleagues often helps get the best results, directing them to which items to donate as well as where/when collection bins will be available. The more reminders, the better!

Where should I put my collection bin?

It is best to locate the collection bin in a common area such as a classroom, office, lunchroom, etc., with a sign on the bin saying what is being collected. Signage can be provided by Hope & Comfort.

What if my drive participants have questions about Hope & Comfort that I can't answer?

Please direct folks to contact us at www.HopeandComfort.org, info@HopeandComfort.org, or 617-795-1608.