

HOPE & COMFORT

WORKING TO END HYGIENE INSECURITY



The Mission

Hope & Comfort's mission is to provide essential hygiene products to support and improve the health, self-esteem, and hygiene education of youth in need across Greater Boston.

Hope & Comfort's vision is that, one day, everyone in the US will have access to the basic hygiene products they need to feel clean, confident, and healthy.

The Need: Hygiene Insecurity

- Hygiene insecurity is the inability to regularly access and/or afford basic hygiene products.
- There are an estimated 250,000 youth in Massachusetts alone who are experiencing hygiene insecurity.
 - At least 15 million hygiene products are needed to meet this demand.
- SNAP benefits (formerly known as 'food stamps') do not cover any basic hygiene products.
- 58% of low-income individuals reported cutting back on food to afford hygiene products.*

The Model: Facts About Hope & Comfort

- Jeff Feingold founded Hope & Comfort in 2011 to teach his children the importance of giving back.
- Hope & Comfort is the only nonprofit in the Greater Boston region solely focused on hygiene.
- Working with over 100 community partners, Hope & Comfort reaches 50,000 clients.
 - 75% of our distributions go to Youth Serving organizations, 15% to Families, and 10% to Community Supports.
 - Our partners include the YMCA of Greater Boston, Boston Public Schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, Catie's Closet, the Wonderfund, Cradles to Crayons, and Bunker Hill Community College.
- Our five core products include soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and shampoo.
- We engage about 800 volunteers a year, and half are under the age of 18.**

The Impact: COVID-19 Relief Efforts

- Hope & Comfort will distribute 1,500,000 hygiene products in 2020, three times greater than in 2019 with the demand continuing to increase.
 - This includes 650,000 bars of soap.
- Hygiene products deliver health, confidence, and dignity to those in need.
- In a recent survey of youth hygiene kit recipients, 96% of respondents said their families had been economically impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- One hygiene kit recipient commented on Hope & Comfort's impact: "I don't worry about running out of essentials and that makes me feel more confident."

To learn more about Hope & Comfort, email us at info@hopeandcomfort.org or visit hopeandcomfort.org.

* Source: "In Short Supply: American Families Struggle to Secure Everyday Essentials." Report by [Feeding America](#) in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2013.

** Pre COVID-19