

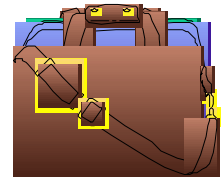
TREASURES, NOT TRASH



Children in foster care often have nothing to carry their meager possessions in as they get shifted around from one spot to another. Marc Brown, who founded Foster Care Luggage for Kids in 1995, says, "It looks like they're just leaving home with trash. No businessman takes his papers in a trash bag. No family goes on vacation with their belongings in a garbage bag. We start out this whole ugly process with a garbage bag when they're already scared and frightened."

Often children who are removed from their homes and placed with foster families are abused or neglected. Some children have parents who have sold their child's possessions to get cash for drugs. Owning a piece of "real" luggage gives children the feel of having a place of their own where they can keep their "treasures" safe.

Consider purchasing sturdy duffle bags or other "cool" luggage to donate to your county's Division of Family Services or the state Foster Care and Adoption Agency. You could also collect and donate gently used luggage.



Starter kits for beginning your own local program are available at www.suitcasesforkids.org. (see the menu on the left-hand of the screen)

A side benefit of this program is that women will discover more about the process and needs for foster services.



As with any service project check with local agencies to be certain this is appropriate in your local area.