



School Project - Nov/Dec 2019

Go date: 01 November 2019

Starting 01 November 2019, through to November 30 2019, Sewing for Charity Australia's main project will be sewing library bags, pencil cases and underwear for Australian children experiencing difficulties with obtaining much needed school supplies.

Additionally we will be collecting new stationery and school items to complement our handmade items.

In Australia, 1.1 million children and young people living in poverty. Children in every state and territory across our country are being deprived of basic essentials needed for learning. The statistics are frightening - in 2013, more than 8,000 Victorian children attended state schools without basic clothing and footwear. One in five NSW high school kids suffers "severe" deprivation of life's essentials. The list goes on.

If children aren't wearing underwear, they can't attend school. Underwear is a basic necessity we take for granted, and we aim to provide as many handmade and newly purchased undies as possible to these children who would otherwise be sent home from school.

Library bags are also so important. In the majority of schools, without a bag, children aren't allowed to borrow library books to take home. This limits opportunities for children who are already facing disadvantage to cement and grow their learning through the joy of reading.

Who are we supporting this project?

The charity and community partners we are focusing on this project are:

Kids4Kids School Supply Drive (Logan, QLD)

[Facebook](#)

In January 2017, then 9 year Samuel Glancy raised 4000 School Supplies for local School Children in need. It helped many School Children in need who were without the basic tools for learning. It also highlighted that as a Community we can all help each other through giving and helping others.

Since this time, Kids4Kids School Supply Drive has collected and donated over 50,000 school supplies to children in desperate need in the Logan community.



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**Boss Lady note I have met Sam and his lovely Mum Tanya as SFCA have a Kids4Kids donation box at the Lair. They are collecting for various schools in Logan, QLD. The schools have been disclosed to myself however will remain confidential by request of Kids4Kids School Supply Drive.*

Got a Pen (NSW)

[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

The core aim of "Got A Pen?" is to distribute stationery to students who don't have what they need to actively participate in their learning at school on a daily basis.

Refugee Migrant Children Centre (RMCC) (Victoria)

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Every year, over 2,000 refugee kids resettle in Victoria. Through our programs, we help them thrive in school and life.

With the individual needs of each child at the core, our mentors partner with their family, school, and community to break down the barriers they face settling in Australia.

We offer educational support, peer mentoring, links to support services and activities designed to promote physical, social and mental wellbeing.

Together, we work to support each child become who they want to be, enriched by the connections that make this a place to call home.

Backpacks 4 SA Kids (SA)

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

A proud SA Non-Profit Organisation supporting newborn babies through to teenagers who are placed into foster or emergency care.

The backpacks they provide help to relieve some of the stress and anxiety children face when they are removed from their family, often in traumatic situations and without the opportunity to take any personal belongings with them.

B4SAK are a sister charity to Backpacks 4 Aussie Kids.



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School Packs Project (WA)

[Facebook](#)

The School Packs Project is a charity providing school stationery packs to children escaping domestic violence and other children facing hardship. The packs provide the basic items needed for learning.

The Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS) (NT)

[Website](#)

Children who attend CAAPS with their parents participate in the CAAPS Children's Program. As part of this participation the Children's Worker supports parents in engaging school aged children with local schools, developing effective daily routines and increasing parental capacity.

The Children's Program provides daily activities for children who are not of school age to develop school ready skills and routines, age appropriate protective behaviours, meet nutritional requirements, as well as a range of fun activities.

BOSS LADY NOTE:

If you know of a school in your area who need assistance please let me know. We encourage local creating and are happy to support as many kids as possible through this project!

What exactly are we creating?

Library Bags

Pencil Cases

Children's underwear



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Details

Where a link to a tutorial or further information is provided, please read all linked information before proceeding - the table provides a summary only for those items.

Organisation	Item	Fabric	Size	Link to details / pattern / tutorial
All	Library Bag	<p>Children's prints cotton and cotton blends</p> <p>Anything bright and fun!</p> <p>Think outside the square - plain fabrics with large patches of kids fabrics, or embroidered calico look great too!</p>	See pattern/tutorial	<p>Threading My Way - Library Bag Tutorial</p> <p>Pattern Orchard - Cadeau Bag</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE:</p> <p>Bags are to have short handles as per tutorials provided.</p> <p>You may use your own pattern if preferred as long as it is in the ballpark for size as per tutorials provided</p> <p>It is NOT mandatory to line or use interfacing - use your own judgment based on your fabric choice</p> <p>PLEASE ADD SNAP OR VELCRO to close the bag. Only a small piece is needed between the bag handles or one snap either side of them. Snaps can be done at the Lair if needed</p>



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All	Pencil Case	Children's prints cotton and cotton blends Anything bright and fun!	Various	Various pencil case links Drawstring Pencil Case
All	Pencil Roll	Children's prints cotton and cotton blends Anything bright and fun!		Sewing School Tutorial File for embroidery machine can be found in Patterns and Files in Volunteer Forum Please feel free to use your own pattern as long as it is functional! Note: Please consider using interfacing for durability or use thicker fabrics for outside layer (for example decorator fabric)

How many?

As many as possible!

How else can I help?

Unable to sew for this project but still want to contribute? Here are a few other ways you can help:

A. Are you local to The Lair?

- We need many hands to sort and pack the made items throughout the project. Come to a regular Friday Community Collaboration Day, or, let us know when you're free to help.



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B. Do you have a good eye for a bargain (or, just enjoy shopping!)?

- We need packaging supplies - clear self sealing cello bags A4 and A5
- School Supplies!
 - Pens
 - Coloured pencils
 - Crayons (wind up please)
 - HB pencils
 - Exercise Books
 - Scrap Books
 - Erasers
 - Rulers (15cm preferred)
 - Pencil Sharpeners
 - Highlighters
 - Glue sticks
 - Printer paper
 - New Drink Bottles
 - New Lunchboxes
 - New Black school shoes
 - New White socks
 - New Underwear in sizes 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 12-14 (kids)
 - Backpacks (Kmart have plain colours for \$4 which would be great to pack these items in)

Important dates

Items need to be dropped off or posted to the lair no later than **30 November**.



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Where do I send things?

Send any finished items or donated materials to "The Lair":

Cass Gell

38 Bladensburg Dr

Waterford QLD 4133

PLEASE NOTE:

Donations will be kept "in state" wherever possible on this project to minimise postage, however we will also work to ensure all organisations receive support.

Addresses for postage/ delivery to each organisation cannot always be made public, so we will work with our state coordinators to collect and distribute donations.

If there is no collection point in your area, please send your donations directly to the Lair.

A list of collection points is available [here](#).

FAQs

II. What items do we need the most?

- A. All of them! Pick an item you're comfortable with and get started. All items donated will find a grateful home.

III. Do I need to pre-wash my fabric?

- A. This project does not require the fabric to be prewashed. However, please use your own judgement and if you feel your fabric needs washing then please do.

IV. I need fabric for this project. Can this be sent to me?

- A. Yes! If we have suitable fabric in stock we can send you fabric from donations at the lair. If possible, please consider covering postage. Contact Admin to arrange.



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V. Where do I send completed items?

- A. Completed items should be sent to The Lair, 38 Bladensburg Dr Waterford QLD 4133

VI. What courier service should I use to send in items?

- A. Use whichever courier or postal service you would like. As a guide, our volunteers have found the below services to be of good value:
- For a small number of items (up to 5kg) - Australia post satchel
 - For larger, heavier items (>5kg) - Sendle courier service

VII. I made a mistake! Should I bother finishing / sending the item in?

- A. Yes! Many charity groups use bags of all sizes throughout the year. Even if the specific charities this month are unable to use it, be assured every bag can find a grateful home.

VIII. I need some hands on guidance - can someone show me how to make one?

- A. Probably! Some options are below. Have a chat and we may be able to find another sewing volunteer locally you can collaborate with outside of the regular community groups!
- Local sewing group - groups meet regularly in Waterford (Brisbane South), Lowood (Brisbane West), Toowoomba, Mackay, Adelaide North and South, Newcastle and North Brisbane.

Still have questions?

Talk to us! We'd love to say hi :)

- Email: volunteer@sewingforcharity.com
- Post on our Facebook page or send a private message (PM). Search "Sewing for Charity Australia Volunteers"
- If you're already in the Facebook group, PM or tag one of our friendly Admins (Select "Members>Admin" for a list)
- Call Cass on 0498 213 410