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Comfort Kit Drive Needs You

By Sheryl Longsworth

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River is starting their 7th Annual Comfort Kit item collection drive, for local women fleeing domestic abuse. These kits contain basic essentials since many women leave their violent environment with nothing. We will be collecting donation items for the comfort kits June 13-20 at Rancho Cordova City Hall at 2729 Prospect Park Drive Rancho Cordova, 95670 during normal operating hours:

A "Comfort Kit" is a large zippered canvas tote bag filled with a 30-day supply of toiletries and personal care items that most women do not think about packing when they are fleeing from an abusive environment. Soroptimists are filling a need to support these women when they may be afraid, hurt, depressed or suffer from low self-esteem. The kits are designed to help these survivors feel normal and taken care of and also show them that there is a group of women out there who care and provide encouragement. SIRC has been delivering Comfort Kits to WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment) for the past three years, for distribution at their Sacramento County safe houses. They have grown from delivering 50 bags that first year to 175 kits in 2014.

In 2014 we expanded our program to also providing a drawstring bag containing a toothbrush & paste, brush & comb, small blanket and small stuffed animal as well as a coloring book and crayons, called a Comfort Kid kit for children entering the shelter with their mothers. Children are frequently traumatized when their mothers suddenly take them from the bed or crib often in the middle of the night, to leave their abuser. These children are often forced to leave their toys and items that comfort them behind. The goal of the Comfort Kid kit is to give these children some items of comfort that they can begin their new life with. Donations of items as described for the Comfort Kid kits will also be gratefully

Continued on page 2

All donations must be new and in unopened packaging. Full-sized items are preferred, but Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River accept trial sizes. Photo courtesy Soroptimist International

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Continued from page 1

accepted.

The club needs things like: toothbrushes & toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, soap, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, facial tissue, hairbrushes & combs, emery boards, and hand sanitizer. We will also accept things like: hair clips & accessories, body spray/fragrance, small first aid kits or adhesive bandages, journals with pen, pain relievers, skin cleansers/other toiletries, makeup removers/cleansing cloths, cosmetic bags, body & hand lotion, and makeup. All donations must be new and in unopened packaging. Full-sized items are preferred, but will accept trial sizes. Please contact Sheryl Longsworth at sheryl6663@yahoo.com with any questions.

The name Soroptimist, means "best for women," and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best, working to help other women to be their best. If you would like more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River, how to become a member or just want to be informed of volunteer opportunities, please visit the club's website http://www.soroptimistranchocordova.org/ or send email to siranchocordova@soroptimist.net. If you aren't ready to become a member, but believe in what we are doing, please sign up at www.LiveYourDream.org. ★