



HOPE ROOM FUNDING PROPOSAL

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Eckerd Connects' vision is to ensure that every child has an opportunity to succeed. Eckerd Connects' philosophy considers that every child deserves access to basic needs items and more. As such, the Hope Room was launched to provide basic needs items such as clothing, shoes, hygiene items, school supplies, and baby care items to foster children and homeless children in Sedgwick County and surrounding counties ages 0 to 18 years. At times, young adults stay in care until age 21. Set up like a store, children can "shop" for free items, all while maintaining a sense of dignity. A Hope Room can also help provide teens and young adults entering the workforce with proper interview and work clothing that greatly assists in obtaining a job and keeping a job! The Hope Room is located within the Eckerd Connects' Wichita office.

ELIGIBILITY

Every 2 minutes, a child is removed from their home due to abuse or neglect; often with nothing more than the clothes on their back and many carry their few belongings in a trash bag. The Greater Wichita area currently has one of the highest removal rates in the state for children entering the foster care system. The program currently serves approximately 150 foster youth each day and 200 per month. Our Hope Room is available to child safety workers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so children have immediate access to resources. Every child is entitled to a NEW duffel bag for their new belongings.

OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 this year to help maintain our Hope Room. Our Hope Room is solely funded by personal and company monetary and tangible donations. Funding is utilized to purchase needed inventory, **so no child goes without.**

SPONSORSHIPS

❖ Hope Sponsorship - \$5,000

- Family or Company name on a Hope Room
- Family or Company name on the program webpage for one full year with a link to your business.
- Half-page ad in two Foster Care Program newsletters distributed quarterly each year.
- Monthly shoutouts on Foster Care Program Facebook for one full year.
- Tour of Hope Room with the opportunity to volunteer on a scheduled date.

❖ Faith Sponsorship - \$2,500

- Family or Company name on Eckerd Connects Foster Care webpage for six months.
- Quarter page ad in one Foster Care Program newsletter distributed quarterly each year.
- Bi-monthly (6) shoutouts on Foster Care Program Facebook within twelve months.
- Tour of Hope Room with the opportunity to volunteer on a scheduled date.

RAISE HOPE...FOR CHILDREN & TEENS IN NEED

TANGIBLE NEEDS



Clothing

*Tops, bottoms, jackets, new shoes,
new underclothing & socks*



Hygiene

*Hair care, dental care, diapers,
deodorant, shaving, soap, etc.*



School Supplies

*Backpacks, folders, pencils,
crayons, notebooks, etc.*

HOW WE HELP!

When a four-year-old little boy was recently placed in an Eckerd Connects foster home of Diann Wheeler, he had all his few belongings in garbage bags. He came into care unexpectedly with little notice, as much foster youth frequently do. His foster parent, Ms. Diann, purchased him new clothing but had not obtained luggage for him yet. When her Eckerd worker found out, she referred her to the Hope Room. Thanks to the Eckerd Hope Room, he was provided a suitcase large enough to pack most of his belongings, so he didn't have to use garbage bags. Ms. Diann, and the little boy, were happy and very appreciative of the help provided.

Our Hope Room was a huge help when we had two foster youth siblings, boys, ages 8 and 12, placed with our foster parents. They came into care due to neglect and substance abuse from their parents. When they arrived in the foster home, they each had one outfit a piece, basically what they were wearing. They had no hygiene items, additional underclothing, or school supplies. Something we see all too often. Our Eckerd staff caseworker for the family shared about our Hope Room. When the boys visited our Hope Room, they were thrilled for the opportunity to each choose 10 new outfits, new under items, socks, hygiene items, and duffel bags. They were so happy and very thankful, even during a very unsettling time in their lives. This free service enabled the Eckerd Connects foster parent to then purchase the boy's new shoes and school supplies. It was a huge relief for them to have these basic items and they too, were very thankful.

These success stories would not happen without the generous tangible item contributions and monetary donations from our community businesses and caring individuals...we thank you for taking a stance to help our foster families!

Your FAITH in our mission can provide HOPE for all the children and teens that we serve!

Learn more about our program at: Eckerd.org/Kansas or [Donate Online](#)



Contact Information:

Ami Gray, Foster Care Recruiter/Trainer: Amgray@eckerd.org , (316) 221-0354
Melanie Webre, Corporate Relations: Mwebre@eckerd.org , (727) 247-2614