



Thank you for helping us pack **FRIENDSHIP BAGS** for our Hispanic neighbors. What you're doing will bring hope, encouragement, friendship, and love to families that need it so desperately right now. We are grateful to partner with you on this project!

THE PROCESS:

1. Pick up the backpacks from your assigned school on THURSDAY (backpacks are in laundry baskets; please make sure to take the baskets that correspond with your backpack numbers (for example, if you're doing bags 1-30, there will be *multiple laundry baskets* with backpacks). We labeled the laundry baskets with sharpie; each basket has 10 backpacks in it. You'll also notice each backpack has a luggage tag with a number on it; that's how the schools denote which backpack goes with which family.
2. Take the bags home and fill them with 3-4 items from the list below. *Please place all items in a plastic shopping bag, and insert the shopping bag into the backpack. If a backpack is missing, please just knot the plastic shopping bag and place into the basket. Schools will get the bag into the child's backpack.
3. Return the bags to the school on MONDAY MORNING. The backpacks will go home with students on Monday afternoon.

ITEMS FOR BACKPACKS:

With the help of our Hispanic families, we put together a list of ideas of items that would be helpful and appreciated in the backpacks.

Please pick ONE item from each category (we're trying to keep the backpacks light enough for children to carry home)

1. FRESH FRUIT: A bag of apples or oranges, a mango, or a papaya
2. SNACK OR MEAL ITEM: Jar of peanut butter, bag of pistachios (chili pistachios are a favorite), pretzels, goldfish, a bag of cereal, box of granola bars
3. A TREAT (okay to put 2 smaller items in here, if you'd like – this is the one the kids will love!): A box of cookies or a sweet (favorites are Marinela Principe Cookies or Marinela Gansito cakes - both boxed, at Meijer), a small toy or something fun (stickers, bouncy ball, matchbox car, pen/pad of paper, lollipops)
4. CARE ITEM (Optional, but helpful): A bottle of shampoo (please put in a ziplock in case it opens), a bar of soap, a pair of mittens, a winter hat, a pair of socks, or school supplies.
5. A NOTE: Please include a small note of friendship and encouragement in each bag. If you can write it (or a few words) in Spanish, that's awesome! And if the note is in English, that's good too (most of the children are fluent in English and can translate)

*This bag will say: You are loved. You are valued. You are important to me.
Thank you for helping us love our neighbors in this beautiful way.*