

## Help us create Dignity Packages for Catholic Charities!

The Dignity Package Project began out of concern noticed by staff of Catholic Charities Central Intake several years ago. Changes in public policy meant that families and individuals who were receiving public assistance no longer received cash assistance (which could be used for a variety of different needs), but received vouchers that went directly to pay for rent and utilities. When individuals began to receive vouchers, they could no longer use the money they were given to care for other essential needs, such as basic hygiene.

The Dignity Package Project focuses on providing personal care items to families and individuals of low to moderate income who reside in Buffalo and the surrounding counties of Western New York, who are faced with crisis of not being able to provide for their basic needs of personal care. It is a project that promotes an individual's sense of dignity by providing items to assist with health and cleanliness and thus, a person's overall confidence. It addresses poverty issues by assisting with basic necessities for personal care and enables families and individuals to maintain adequate levels of cleanliness and hygiene that impacts their quality of life.

Storyland Expo will feature an area where teens can assemble Dignity Packages with toiletries that are needed. **If each person coming to the Convention could bring at least ONE item (from the assigned list below), we can make at least 100 bags!** If people can contribute more items, that just means we'll be able to make even more bags! All items requested can be purchased at your favorite neighborhood dollar store (for just \$1!). Donations will be collected in Storyland Expo at the start of the Convention. Please ask your group members to bring the item that is assigned to your county/vicariate:

4.25 oz. bar soap:	Northern Erie
18 oz. shampoo:	Southern Tier: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany
20 oz. body lotion:	Eastern Erie & Tri-County
6 oz. toothpaste:	City of Buffalo: Northwest Buffalo and Southeast Buffalo
42 soft full toothbrush:	Niagara, Orleans, Genesee & Wyoming
2.6 oz. deodorant:	Southern Erie