

Service Project

Repackage Laundry Soap into Family Size Portions

Want an easy volunteer project to do at your workplace, neighborhood, or school that make a difference in the lives of local individuals and families at the same time? Have fun with your team members while you work to package laundry soap into smaller containers for distribution to low-income families visiting the Interfaith Outreach food shelf.

Food support (i.e. SNAP or “food stamps”) doesn’t cover the cost of laundry detergent so many families go without.

- ◆ Your group will need to provide the dry laundry detergent and re-closable plastic bags (like Ziploc®).
- ◆ Each bag needs to be labeled with the name of the detergent, instructions for use, ingredient list, caution messages, etc. This can be printed on a mailing label or on paper that can be inserted inside the clear plastic bag. This information can be found on the original container.
- ◆ A large box/bucket of dry laundry detergent can be purchased at area discount stores or online. Any brand of detergent is welcome, just make sure to not mix different detergents when doing this activity.
- ◆ The cost for a box of 200+ Ziploc® bags (double seal, 1 qt. size) is around \$15 (7-8 cents each).
- ◆ In our experience it takes 10 volunteers 2.5 hours each to package 1,000 pounds of soap.

The Interfaith Outreach food shelf is run by community volunteers like you. We appreciate your help delivering the laundry soap donation to Interfaith Outreach.

Please see the next page for details on setting up and executing this project.

Questions? Contact our Community Engagement Coordinator, Ashley Wyatt (awyatt@iocp.org, 763-489-7505).

Most groups will set up this project to do over the lunch hour and promote it as “speed volunteering.” Each team member packages soap for 10-15 minutes. This gives everyone an opportunity to contribute for a reasonable amount of money.

In advance of the event:

1. Collect enough copier paper boxes (or similar type containers) to use for easy packaging and delivery of the soap.
2. Arrange for 1-2 people to deliver the soap to the food shelf when you're finished. Deliver during Interfaith's donation hours, Monday or Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
3. Before opening the box of laundry soap, copy the panel that provides the name of the detergent, ingredient list and if noted possible irritants, such as bleach. Use this to create the labels that you can stick on the outside of the Ziploc bag or print on paper and insert inside the bag in a way that is clearly visible to a shopper.
4. Open the large container of soap, take out the measuring cup from the container and pour the equivalent of one load into a plastic cup. With a permanent marker, make a mark on the cup to indicate one load. Mark 8 cups for easy scooping by up to 8 people.
5. Set up two 6 or 8 foot tables end to end with about six feet of space between them. Put 2 chairs at all four short ends of the tables. (Total of 8 chairs)
6. Put one large box of soap in the center of each table. Set out four “measuring cups” per table. At the end of each table place a box of the plastic bags, a stack of labels and a stack of ingredient list slips. Have one empty copier paper box on the floor on each side of each table.

At the event:

1. Have one person at each end of each table apply the labels to the bags or insert the paper with product information inside the bag.
2. Have four people (two on each side of each table) take the labeled bags and put **10 loads** of soap into each bag, seal the bag securely and put it in the empty copier paper box.
3. When all the soap has been packaged, have the designated volunteers deliver the packages to the Interfaith Outreach food shelf.