



The Pieces of Home Backpack Project is a program that serves children who need immediate placement into foster care.

The program collects donations to make starter kits (backpacks) for children to take with them to their “new” home. The backpacks provide these children with necessities for a few days as they adjust to their new environment as well as providing them with something that is theirs in a new space. Each bag is created to be gender specific and all the items inside are new.

As part of their community service project, two freshmen students, Nolan Rothwell and JT Pittman from Ashland High School, in Ashland, MA, have been collecting donations to help start this program in the Emergency Department at Tufts Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. Shannon Casey, a sophomore high school student from Hanover, MA, who attends Notre Dame Academy in Hingham is also taking this project on board for her community service as well.

The bags are to be used for any child who is emergently placed by DFS or who is unable to have personal items retrieved prior to placement. The backpacks may also be used for children whose homes have been subjected to house fire or crime. These bags will be kept in a storage cabinet in the ED and will be accessible to any Pediatric Care Center in the Floating Hospital as the need arises. A log will be kept as backpacks are taken so they can be replaced as needed as well as track the needs specific to Tufts Medical Center.

With extended support from the community, we hope to make this program a success at the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. At present, the following people are contact people for the program – Sharon Rothwell, RN in the PICU (617-636-5007), Bridget Braverman and Laurie Corbett, Child Life Specialists in the ED (617-636-7958), and Diane Casey, RN in the ED and PICU (617-636-5566).