

How to Implement the
Bags of Love

Program in Your Community



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Updated 2024 by Susan Schnell,
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WELCOME

Welcome to **It's My Very Own (IMVO)**. Our mission is to provide handmade **Bags of Love** to meet the immediate needs of displaced children. We are so thankful that the Lord led you to this ministry. We know that with His leadership and your devotion, this program will be successful and bless your community. We look forward to working with you and your church to establish this ministry in your area.

As **It's My Very Own** grows and spreads around the country, we want to witness where the Lord takes this program. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Also, this program was designed with *sharing* at its heart. We will keep you updated, and we would love to hear from you with any ideas, experiences, or testimonials you may have.

Please either fill out the form below and mail it to me or send me the information by email or text. This will be added to our international website, allowing us to provide your ministry with materials and track chapter locations. When we receive information on volunteers or donors in your area, we will refer them to your chapter.

Again, welcome, and thank you for joining this ministry. We will be praying for you.

It's My Very Own
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------(CUT HERE)-----

Name of Group or Church _____

Leader's Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Second contact Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

FOREWORD

Barbara and Jack Neher developed **It's My Very Own** out of a need they saw portrayed in a television newscast in which the parents of young children had been arrested for drug violations. They were struck by the terror in the children's cries as their parents were removed from their home and put into a patrol car. It was as though the children's world had collapsed around them; they were terrified not knowing what would happen next. Barbara felt compelled to do something that would ease the pain of those children. Thus, the idea of making **Bags of Love** was born.

Barbara found out that these children usually have to wait in an office while the officers call up different childcare and protection services. At this crucial waiting time is when Barbara wanted these children to receive bags of love because they are very vulnerable, and each bag gives every child an identity. Most of the time the children take nothing with them from their parental home, so the bag becomes the one thing that is their very own, which was the original name of the project: "**It's My Very Own**" It gives them a sense of autonomy, ownership, and identity. "This is mine!" "Don't worry, I have my own stuff."

Working out of their home, Barbara and Jack created countless **Bags of Love** to give some comfort to each child removed from their home by law enforcement authorities and child protection services. The project started small but quickly grew as word spread rapidly.

It takes a village to raise a child, and it also takes a community to make a project for children work—a project like **It's My Very Own** that relies on volunteers of all ages and walks of life. Whether it's a little country church in Alberta or a large urban outreach center in California, **It's My Very Own** provides handmade Bags of Love to meet the needs of displaced children.

These humble communities of faith work together as a close-knit society of quilters and other volunteers who donate their creative, colorful talents—some of the most beautiful quilts you will ever see—to go into the bags. Each of the bags of love includes items such as a handmade quilt, stuffed animal, toys, books, and personal items. The bags are age-appropriate and are delivered to the local agencies charged with removing children from unsafe homes.

The thoughtful care that goes into each quilt is truly heartwarming; social workers and foster parents testify to the calming and comforting effects the bags have on children who have experienced the worst trauma of their lives. Having your very own quilt to cling to in those moments of overwhelming distress provides a great deal of comfort for these children.

The teams of volunteers have two motives that keep them going: a deep love for children and an abiding trust in the LORD, Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that they would dare to ask or think, according to the power that works within all those who put their faith in Him.

If your church, group, or service organization is looking for a project that will make a difference to the lives of children—the future of our society—keep reading. Everything you need to get you started is found in this manual.

*May you discover the joy of service through the **Bags of Love** project!*

Mike Lemon,
Speaker Director for It Is Written Canada
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

“It’s My Very Own”

A History

We are all aware of the drug problems that have ravaged our country. They have reached epidemic proportions, and the effects they have on the lives they touch are often irreversible. Drugs destroy lives, homes, relationships, and dreams.

Perhaps this problem is far removed from your world, just as it was for me –until it touched my family in a very real way. I remember very well the day my daughter and I flew several hours to pick up two precious young boys who had been permanently removed from their mother’s home due to her abuse of drugs. Two little boys who had lost everything that was familiar to them – their home, their friends, their mother, even their toys – would now be adopted by my daughter. Perhaps you can imagine how frightened and alone they must have felt. Even though God had already placed love in our hearts for them, we were perfect strangers to these boys. Though all of their possessions had to remain in their house, they did have a very special cloth bag given to them by the local Child Protective Service. We enjoyed seeing them open their bags containing a few small toys, clothes, and a handmade blanket. To this day, they still love those special blankets.

Sometime later, our local news channel reported on Methamphetamine. I watched as the reporter followed a local drug bust. The belligerent parents, as well as other adults, were removed from the home in handcuffs. The reporter walked over to a window of the house and held the microphone up to reveal the heartbreaking sobs of children who could not possibly understand why their parents were being taken away from them. Frightened, their worlds crumbling around them, these children were taken from their homes by strangers. As you might imagine, the next few hours, days, and weeks must have been tough for these children. This news report strongly affected me.

Though I had previously asked God to show me how I could be of use to Him, the answer seemed slow in coming. Sometimes, it is amazing how God works. Just as He was revealing His will to me, He also showed it to my daughter. That is when the plans for ***It’s My Very Own*** were first conceived.

Over Thanksgiving, my daughter and I worked out the details of our plan. We would begin making ***Bags of Love*** for these needy children. They would contain a handmade quilt, a stuffed animal, age-appropriate toys, and personal care items. With a bag in hand, we introduced the program to our local Child Protective Services, letting them know that this is an ongoing, long-term service for the children of our county. They were elated, and we were ready to begin.

What an awesome journey the Lord has led us on through this experience! He has opened doors and guided us every step of the way. He has provided help in so many ways. We now have a functional, well-working team. One new friend had the very same idea that we did.

She knew how to manage the business end of things. With her business sense, my experience in sewing, and the many yards of fabric left from my previous business, it was a perfect match. By January 1, 2005, we were off and running!

As you contemplate the need for such a program in your area, remember that with the Lord's help, **all things are possible!**

God bless you as you embark on this journey of love!

Barbara Neher and Staff

Update by Susan Schnell

Unfortunately, drugs are not the only reason that homes are dysfunctional, and children need protection and a safe environment. Alcohol addiction, neglect, and other types of abuse also contribute to the need for children to be removed from their homes. In the US alone, over 600,000 children are displaced from their homes. Unfortunately, the problem isn't just in the US. Canada and many other countries face the same issues. **It's My Very Own** chapters provide **Bags of Love** to any child who is displaced from their home, not only the ones affected by drug abuse.

In the spring of 2017, I emailed Barbara to start another chapter of **It's My Very Own (IMVO)**. I love this ministry and was involved in many different chapters as I moved from church to church with my Pastor husband. She called me and said, "I would like for you to be the new director!" She and Jack needed to slow down a bit, and when I contacted her, she felt the impression of God that I was the one to take over the ministry. What a humbling experience! While I can never fill Barbara's shoes, I am determined to continue this wonderful ministry. As you begin an IMVO chapter in your area, I will pass on what Barbara always said, **"Prepare to be blessed."**

Statement of Purpose

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT FORBID THEM; FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

Mark 10:14

The following outlines our **purpose(s)** for being:

We recognize that certain children, upon being displaced from their normal or perhaps abnormal home life due to domestic violence and/or the incarceration of the parents, in almost all cases, are left with nothing, not even their personal belongings (personal care items, a favorite toy, or that “special” blanket, etc.).

It is our intent, that working through the official Child Protective Services offices of our communities, to provide to each of these children, from those just-born up to and including late- -teens, a handmade duffle-bag (**Bag of Love**) containing certain items for their care and their enjoyment that they can truly call “My Very Own.”

We believe that this small token of love and affection will go far toward helping these children adjust to a foster or adoptive home, whether temporary or permanent. We pray that these children will long cherish their Bag of Love and endeavor to remember other children who might be subjected to the same plight in their growing years.

Finally, it is our decided wish, with hope and much prayer, that others throughout the communities of North America and beyond may take up the call and provide these same or similar services to the displaced children in their respective regions. We stand ready and willing to assist all who would take up this desperately needed mantle!

“ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, IN AS MUCH AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YOU DID IT TO ME.”

MATTHEW 25:40

“It’s My Very Own”

Guidance Manual

This manual has been developed to assist you in establishing a local chapter of It’s My Very Own. Please allow it to help you accomplish your aims. We will share things we have found to be quite successful that you can take advantage of, but recognize that you may have different circumstances and other helpful ideas for your area.

It is our express wish, however, that we maintain specific standards as to the size and content of the bags so that agencies receiving them for distribution know what to expect when we say we represent the ***It’s My Very Own*** ministry. The following steps will help you get started:

Initial Contact

Contact your local government service agency in charge of removing children from parental or other care due to neglect, domestic violence, drug activity, etc. **Making the initial contact in person with a filled bag in hand is best.** It is hard for the agency staff to resist a colorful, large filled bag. The name of this agency is different in different areas. Ours is Child Protective Services (CPS) in the Department for Community-Based Services (DCBS). Explain to them what you are trying to accomplish and set up an appointment with the person in charge of handling the children.

Explain to them that you have a unique program designed to help a child adjust to new circumstances. This will also help make the job easier for the case worker (the caseworker often looks like the bad guy in the child's eyes. All the child sees is someone taking them away from their family).

The agencies we have spoken with have been very happy about this program because it makes their job a little bit easier. In all the commotion, they are able to give a child their bag, who can then say, “It’s their very own.” Suddenly, the child’s focus is on this large, bulging bag, and they can hardly wait to see what’s inside! It helps take the child’s focus from the problems they are facing at this very difficult time.

It will enhance your presentation to this office if you have one bag ready and filled with the items to show them what you intend to provide. Leave some brochures with them as well.

At this meeting, ask if they can give you an estimate of how many children they remove from homes each year. Having an average number will help you plan ahead. Assure them that this will be an ongoing service provided by your group – not just a one-time provision.

Let them know this is a program that enlists the community. We ask for volunteers to help make the quilts and bags. We also ask for donations of toys, stuffed animals, and personal

care items. Perhaps they can refer you to individuals or organizations that you can contact for donations. This will help you start getting the IMVO program out to the public.

One of our first presentations was as the guest speaker at a luncheon. We invited the press to cover the meeting. We had a very nice write-up in the paper with pictures. That's when we started getting calls asking, "How can we help? What can we do? What do you need?"

Each call you receive is a chance to witness and talk about Jesus and how much of a blessing they will receive for caring and helping. We always let them know that this program was an inspiration from God and that He is the director.

Provision of Bags

You need to provide your agency with one bag for both boys and girls in each age group. The five age groups include: Newborn-18 months, 18 months-3 years, 4-7 years, 8-12 years, and 13-17 years (some have split the tween/teen years differently 8-11, 12-14, 15-17. Others have combined the newborn-18 months and 18 months-3 years)

When we provided the initial ten bags to our agent, we had twenty-two quilts, thirty duffel bags, and enough toys, personal care items, and stuffed animals to fill 20-25 bags.

Plan to have enough items for two to four of each bag on hand. If all of your items are ready,—bags and quilts made, toys and personal items ready—all you have to do is fill the bag and deliver it to the agency when they call for a replacement.

Some chapters put a pre-stamped postcard on the bag with the age group on one side and the address to the church on the other. When the agency gives the bag to the child, they put the postcard in the mail, and then you know to replace the bag. This has worked well with some agencies that do not take the time to call when they need more bags.

A chapter in Alberta, Canada, has a method for agencies to order more bags using the chapter's website (I wish all chapters had this capability).

Often, no matter what method we use to provide the agency with an easy way to order more bags, we still must contact them on a regular basis to assess their need. Remember that they are very busy and have a difficult job. Pray for them and develop a relationship with them to show that we care and are trying to help make their job a little easier.

Memorandum of Understanding

It may be well to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the agency you are working with. Properly drafted, the MOU will outline the expectations between you and the agency and allow you to maintain ownership and control of the program.

Some agencies may require an MOU and may even have a blank form. Otherwise, a **sample form is in the Appendix.**

Initial Costs

Assuming that you must purchase all of the items, the cost of one bag will run between \$150 and \$200. The teen bags cost slightly more than the others because, rather than toys, we place sports equipment, games, or accessories. They also require more personal care items. See the list of items in the manual for more information.

Donations

You may be able to get funding or donations to help you get started from the following sources:

- Your Church Community Services Fund
- Donations from other churches
- Your community (service clubs, businesses, individuals)
- Homemakers Club — Most communities have one
- Quilters club or guild — They are often willing to make quilts.
- Community Grants.
- Presentations at schools – Children helping children!
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteers Program)
 - They are very eager about anything that helps the community.
- Senior centers sometimes have sewing groups that will make bags or quilts

Ask these organizations how they would like to help. These are just a few ideas. You will come up with more than fit into your community's needs and resources.

Finances

If your group is sponsored by a church, you will need to discuss with your church treasurer the best way to handle checks written for *It's Very Own*. The donors will need to make their checks payable to your church unless your church has a special arrangement with the bank that allows them to be written payable to *It's My Very Own* or *Bags of Love*. It is very important that all funds received for this project are kept separate from other donations the church may receive.

Issue each donor a tax-deductible receipt. You may copy the page included in this manual. (See **Appendix**.) Many office supply stores will copy these onto NCR paper for a reasonable fee. Then, you will be able to retain a copy for your records.

Be sure that your donors know that all donations go directly to the children in the ***Bags of Love***. Administrative costs and time are donated by volunteers.

Some churches are more than willing to include this project in their budget.

If you do not have a sponsorship from a church or other entity, you may have to set up a non-profit organization.

Initial Start-up

Purchase fabrics (to add to those donated) in complimentary colors and patterns. Choose vibrant colors and patterns that are exciting to children from infant to 18 years. There are so many fabric options for girls! Animal prints are fun for boys and girls. For the boys up to age 11, we purchase fabrics with bugs, dinosaurs, cars, trucks, etc. For the older boys, we use sports themes, military emblems, or masculine prints. You get the idea (warning: *making these quilts can be addictive*)!

The pattern's fabric often used is about 42-45 inches wide. However, you will find some very delightful fabrics in wider widths. You can make use of these with a few adjustments, so don't shy away from them. The yardage needed is found in the quilt instruction chapter. People may want to donate fabric that does not fit into these guidelines. We accept all donations. If donated fabrics are not usable for the quilts or bags, you can donate them to someone else who can use them. You do not want to offend a generous heart. Every gift is a blessing. Let them know how special they are, and God will bless them.

Batting for quilts

Batting can be purchased by the roll (or "batt"), which is usually 30 – 50 yards long and 96" wide. The cost of a roll will vary depending on where you purchase it. You can also purchase it in smaller quantities at fabric stores, but it will end up costing quite a bit more. We use 12 oz. batting.

Rope for bags

We buy the rope in the fabric department at Wal-Mart. Each bag requires 45" of 5/16" rope. Some prefer a longer rope—52".

Stuffed animals

You may receive many donations of stuffed animals. We accept them all but only use those in pristine condition—they must appear to be new! To get started, check out the local Goodwill or Salvation Army stores. You will also receive many small animals. We use those as a little extra in the bag, wherever the Lord urges us to place them.

Personal care items

Ask your local dollar stores and department stores for donations and/or discounts. Dental offices are sometimes a good source for dental hygiene items. They receive them as free

samples. We have found that when the word gets out that you need these items in the bags, you will receive an ample amount.

Toys and Activity items

See the **Appendix** for suggested items for each age group.

Consider the age and gender of these items. We put two new toys and/or games in each bag. Try to limit the cost to \$7.00 or less per item. Watch for sales, and you will find more expensive toys that fit into your price limit. During a good sale, you can often stock up as much as your budget will allow. We have found it to be challenging to plan for the teens. Craft items are great for the older girls. Ask some of the teens in your church for suggestions.

We have found that most people want to help when you tell the story of this program. People have big hearts when it comes to helping these little ones. Child abuse is a universal problem. This program is one small way we can help ease the pain at a very critical time in these children's lives!

Appendix

Bag Contents

Infant – 18 Months*

- Letter to Child
- Quilt
- Books
- Bible Story Books (if allowed)
- 2 toys
- 1 large stuffed animal – 2 small (if available)
- bottle
- Pacifier
- Diaper wipes
- Diapers**
- Child's toothbrush/toothpaste
- Brush and comb set
- Hair bows/ties (girls)
- Shampoo/body wash
- Lotion
- Night light
- Optional: bibs, socks, hats

18 Months – 3 Years*

- Letter to child
- Quilt
- Books
- Bible Story Books (if allowed)
- 2 toys
- 1 large stuffed animal – 2 small (if available)
- Sippy cup
- Diaper wipes
- Diapers**
- Child's toothbrush/toothpaste
- Brush and comb set
- Hair bows/ties (girls)
- Shampoo/body wash
- Lotion
- Night light
- Optional: bibs, socks, hats

*Some chapters have opted to combine these two age groups (Infant to 3 years). If so, include both a bottle and a sippy cup—that is really the only difference between the two bags.

**It is difficult to include diapers in the bags without knowing the child's size. Some chapters have opted to give diapers in various sizes outside the bag, while others have provided a standard size 3 inside the bag.

Ages 4-7

- Letter to child
- Quilt
- Books
- Bible storybooks (if allowed)
- Coloring/activity books
- Crayons
- Toy/game
- 1 large stuffed animal – 2 small (if available)
- Flashlight or night light
- Child's toothbrush/toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner*
- Body wash or bar soap
- Brush and/or comb
- Hair accessories (girls)
- Optional: hat, scarf, socks

Ages 8-12

- Letter to child
- Quilt
- Books
- Bible or bible story (if allowed)
- Coloring/Activity books
- Colored pencils
- #2 pencils
- Pens
- Journal/sketchbook
- Notebook/school supplies
- Toy (sports equipment), game or craft
- 1 large stuffed animal – 2 small if available)
- Flashlight
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene products (girls)
- Brush/Comb
- Shampoo/Conditioner*
- Body Wash or bar soap
- Hair Accessories (girls)
- Optional: hat, scarf, socks

*If purchasing shampoo, conditioner, and body wash, look for a 2n1 or 3n1 product.

Ages 13-17

- Letter to child
- Quilt
- Books
- Bible or bible story (if allowed)
- Coloring/Activity books
- Colored pencils
- #2 pencils
- Pens
- Journal/sketchbook
- Notebook/school supplies
- Toy (sports equipment), game or craft
- 1 large stuffed animal – 2 small (if available)
- Flashlight
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene products (girls)
- Brush/Comb
- Shampoo/Conditioner*
- Body Wash or bar soap
- Hair Accessories (girls)
- Optional: hat, scarf, socks

Some chapters have opted to change the older age groups to 8-11, 12-14, 15-17 because of the wide difference between a 13 y/o and a 17 y/o.

Tags for the Bags/Templates

When you deliver the bags, you will need to tag each one to identify the age and gender of the child who is to receive it. This helps the caseworkers easily identify the bags when they need them.

We have included a template for you to copy for your convenience. Just copy, mark, and separate. Use card stock for the tags; if you are not careful, the paper will tear away when the bags are moved.

Cut string or yarn, etc., to tie them to the bag. Cut a piece about 10" long. Put it through the hole and knot the two ends together. Make several of each age and gender so they are ready when needed.

Attach to the bag: After you have filled the bag and drawn the top closed, tie it into a bow and slip your tag onto one of the loops of the bow.

Alternate attachment option: Punch a hole in the tag and attach it to the pocket flap with a safety pin. If using buttons in your pockets, you can also attach the tag with string or yarn to the button.



BOY

Age Group
**Infant –
18 Months**



BOY

Age Group
**18 Months –
Age 3**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
4 – 7**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
8 – 12**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
13 – 17**



GIRL

Age Group
**Infant –
18 Months**



GIRL

Age Group
**18 Months –
Age 3**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
4 – 7**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
8 – 12**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
13 – 17**



BOY

Age Group
**Infant –
Age 3**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
8 – 11**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
12 – 14**



BOY

Age Group
**Ages
15 – 17**



GIRL

Age Group
**Infant –
Age 3**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
8 – 11**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
12 – 14**



GIRL

Age Group
**Ages
15 – 17**

Sample Letter for the Bags

Dear One,

This **Bag of Love** has been furnished to you by a community of people who truly care about you, and who pray that your circumstances will only improve as time passes by.

It is indeed our heartfelt wish that this will provide you with some small measure of comfort.

We pray that you will cherish at least a part of this gift in the years to come.

Finally, we hope and pray that someday, when you have grown to maturity, you will look back on this **Bag of Love and**, in your own way, remember to offer loving kindness to another child.

With Love and Sincerity,

IT'S MY VERY OWN

Bags of Love - a Project of _____

And the Community of _____

Sample Letter Requesting Donations

Dear [Sir or Madam],

We would like to introduce you to a community-wide project that we believe you will want to be involved in. It's My Very Own is a program conceived because of the needs of some children in our community who are removed from their homes due to their parents' illegal activities. Many of these children lose everything they have.

It's My Very Own is a program that provides a ***handmade Bag of Love to each child removed from the home. The handmade Bag of Love contains several items, including a handmade quilt, a stuffed animal, age and gender-appropriate toys,*** and personal care items. As you might imagine, these bags become a very important part of these children's lives.

This program has been highly successful in other communities due to the many donations that keep it going. Volunteers pay the administrative costs required to operate this program. Everything you donate goes to the children. Our greatest need is for personal care items and toys for all ages.

Below is a list of items that are needed to help ***It's My Very Own*** thrive in our community.

Thank you for your generosity in choosing to support the children of our community.

Sincerely,

[Name of local ***It's My Very Own*** Chapter]

Suggested Donations: Items may be donated by calling [phone number of local chapter representative]. Monetary donations may be sent to [Address of local chapter].

Please contact the chapter representative for a check 'payable to' information.

Toys
Dolls
Stuffed animals
Activity/Craft Sets

Coloring books/Crayons/collared pencils
Books
Journals
Personal care items/toiletries

Sample Receipt

Donor Receipt

Date_____

Received from _____

Address_____

Description of Donated Items(s)_____

The donations below are a tax-deductible contribution for which the organization has provided no goods or services:

Cash Donation \$_____

Donor's Estimated Cash Value \$_____

The amount below is in exchange for "Getting Started Kit(s):

Getting Started Kit(s): Quantiy_____ Amount Paid \$_____

Signed_____





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

IT'S MY VERY OWN
BAGS OF LOVE PROGRAM

(your address)

AND

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (DCBS)

(your county and address)

It is agreed that the attached Basic Provisions will guide our working relationship and that the representative who will serve as a liaison with DCBS is:

(your name and phone #)

The DCBS representative who will serve as a liaison with ***It's My Very Own*** (IMVO) is:

(The names and phone #s of the caseworkers and supervisors involved)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be amended in writing at any time with the concurrence of both parties. It will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary to permit changes.

IMVO STAFF SIGNATURE:

_____ Date: _____
(your name and signature)

COUNTY DCBS STAFF SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

BASIC PROVISIONS OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A: ***It's My Very Own***: IMVO, ***Bags of Love*** Program will:

1. Furnish DCBS with ***Bags of Love***, one for each child removed from their home by a DCBS worker. Each bag will be filled with age-appropriate toy(s), personal care items, and a handmade blanket.
2. Discuss with DCBS if there is a need for assistance to transport the bags to the DCBS office or if DCBS staff will pick up the bags needed from our office.
3. Will maintain an available stock of bags to meet DCBS' projected needs.
4. Meet with DCBS staff periodically to assess and/or discuss additional needs or problems as they might arise.

5. Will ensure the quality and contents of each bag are consistent and approved by DCBS personnel.

B: THE (your county) DCBS/ WILL:

1. Store a minimum of eight bags at their location.
2. Make final dispensation of **Bags of Love** to all children who are being removed by their department. Ensure that only one Bag of Love is given per child to those children being placed in the state's custody.
3. Provide IMVO with an annual estimate of number of bags needed.
4. Communicate with IMVO at least quarterly to request additional bags if needed to maintain a current stock of one bag for each age and gender.
5. When possible, meet with IMVO staff to discuss needs, problems, and other suggestions that might affect the usefulness of the **Bags of Love** program.

