

# Partner School Kit





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Thank you for your interest in the **Generation Joy Foundation!** We are firmly committed to **"Kids Helping Kids"**! One of our goals is to expand our outreach to involve more schools, and ultimately, more students. In this folder you will find information you need to get started with your own drive. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to answer any questions you might have and to discuss having your school participate in our project.

### **Mission Statement**

Generation Joy Foundation is dedicated to engaging local students and community members in providing educational resources, funding, and basic needs to students in South Africa or other underserved areas, regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity or income.

### ***A Little about Generation Joy.....***

For five years Beaver Lake Middle School in Issaquah, Washington, has been running a humanitarian effort in South Africa. Through the energy and efforts of students, staff, and the community, the project has grown exponentially.

Due to this growth, the Generation Joy Foundation was founded in 2007 by a group of educators, parents and business people. The hope is to broaden the impact of our mission and expand the project to include new schools, communities and concerned individuals. Together with its volunteers, Generation Joy is committed to collecting and delivering educational supplies in underserved areas around the world, starting with South Africa.

Generation Joy works with students to plan and execute a yearly drive that not only collects goods but also raises awareness about educational needs plaguing South African kids. In the schools, students oversee all aspects of the drive from collection and shipping of the supplies to personally distributing them in South Africa. What started as a bunch of middle school students collecting pencils and paper has blossomed into a non-profit organization with worldwide impact.

In 2008 a humanitarian club called BLOCK (Beaver Lake Outreach Community Kids) was formed. The students in this club organize the drive for South Africa at BLMS each year, and also create awareness by presenting at schools throughout the region.



### **Contact List**

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### **List of Possible Items to be Collected**

- **Stuffed Animals:** Gently used is fine... beanie baby size is the best, but any size is okay.
- **Shoes:** Gently used is fine... all sizes and all types...separated by sizes and type. **Soccer cleats** in particular are received with much excitement by the children in South Africa!
- **#2 Pencils:** We need lots of these! The less packaging, the better. (**Lead for mechanical pencils is unavailable**).
- **Erasers:** Any size works
- **Pens:** Inexpensive Bic or Papermate stick pens are perfect.
- **Paper:** Composition books are preferable, spiral notebooks, filler notebook paper.
- **Balls:** Gently used is fine... particularly soccer balls and basketballs. These items can be deflated for boxing.
- **Bicycles and Helmets:** Gently used is fine... but they should be "ride able". We can't fix them.
- **Elementary Reading Books:** Must be sorted by grade level.
- **Clothes:** New clothes for any season

We would like to suggest that you choose no more than 3 or 4 items to focus on. Collecting miscellaneous school supplies makes sorting and boxing more difficult.



## ***To-Do Check List***

1. Select dates for your drive within the drive window (**check with GenJoy**). A two week drive has worked well for other schools.
2. If you would like, schedule an assembly for your school. Our BLOCK Club students or GenJoy Board members may be able to do a 30 minute presentation for your students. If you are an elementary school with an early start on Wednesdays, those mornings work well for us.
3. If you'd like, a Generation Joy board member can give a presentation at a PTSA meeting for parents and staff.
4. Collect boxes... Can your custodian save boxes for you? If not, we can help.
5. Recruit volunteers. You will need help with planning, sorting, boxing and delivery.
6. Advertise! Do you send home a monthly school / PTSA newsletter? Flyers? Does your school use e-news? Let parents know a month or two in advance the *what, when, where and why* of your drive. Remind students with posters, and during morning announcements.

## ***Some Things to Think About***

### **Collection**

- ❖ Do you want a box in each classroom? This is nice because the classroom teachers can remind students to bring in their donations, and each class can see how much they are collecting.
- ❖ Would placing boxes in your cafeteria, gym, foyer, or bus drop off area work better at your school? Boxes can be pre-labeled and students can deposit their donations into the specified box when they arrive in the morning. This could make sorting easier. You might want to have volunteers for the first few mornings to manage this.
- ❖ **If you choose to collect bicycles, do you want to advertise one or two after-school drop off days?**



### **Focus Days / Weeks**

- ❖ Some schools have “focus weeks”. For example, week #1 could be “Pen and Pencil week” and week #2 could be “Shoes and soft toys” week.

### **Boxing**

- ❖ We would recommend sorting and boxing as you go along and not waiting until the end of the drive.
- ❖ Do you want to recruit parents to help, or can you get some older students to help after school?
- ❖ You’ll need some packaging tape and sharpies to label and seal the boxes.

### **Cash Donations**

- ❖ If you accept cash donations:
  - Checks or cash can be donated directly to GenJoy.
  - You can accept donations through PTSA.
  - You can accept donations and purchase supplies for your drive.

### **Delivery**

- ❖ Find parent volunteers with SUVs or trucks to help deliver boxes to BLMS.

### ***Boxing Directions***

**Boxes can be used, but must be sturdy enough to survive a long journey and lots of handling! Boxes must have flaps at top that can be taped shut with packaging tape. Please use smaller boxes for heavier items; if you can’t lift it, we probably can’t either!**

1. Items must be sorted into **SEPARATE** boxes... (Stuffed animals in one box, pencils in one box, etc.).
2. Items need to be **COUNTED** and content totals **LISTED** on outside of box in **FELT TIP PEN** (sharpie).
3. **SHOES** must be separated by size and style.
4. **No box can be labeled “Miscellaneous”.**



**Box Label Examples:**

- ❖ 20 soccer balls  
10 basketballs  
5 rubber balls
  
  - ❖ 1000 #2 Pencils
  
  - ❖ Soccer Shoes (Sizes 7-9)  
10 pairs
  
  - ❖ Running Shoes (Sizes 4-6)  
14 pairs
  
  - ❖ 60 Composition books
  
  - ❖ 50 Soft Toys
5. If you have partial boxes of miscellaneous items, leave them un-sealed, and we will include the items with our own supplies at BLMS.
6. Once items are **SORTED, COUNTED** and **LISTED** on outside of box with a **FELT TIP PEN**, the box can be sealed. **DO NOT** put a number on the box, as we will need to do that at BLMS.

***Delivery***

We can arrange a time for you deliver your donations at BLMS. If you are unable to coordinate volunteers to transport your donations to BLMS, we will be happy to work with you to pick them up.