

Ever wonder if what you are doing in ministry is really useful? We displayed the contents of a basket of love to some folks recently released from prison and they were impressed. They expressed how useful a basket like this would have been to them as they struggled with obtaining the items needed for personal hygiene and finding employment. And you get to be creative because no two baskets need to be alike. Just fill a laundry basket with items that would be useful to you if you were unemployed.



For more information about how you can help those in the criminal justice system, please contact

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Criminal Justice System Ministry
Lower Susquehanna Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

BASKET OF LOVE



Shopping List

- Soap
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Q-tips
- Towel and washcloth
- Body lotion
- Shampoo
- Shaver
- Brush or comb
- Laundry detergent
- Postage stamps
- Envelopes
- Pens and Pencils
- Notebook paper or Stationary
- Address book
- Appointment book
- Kleenex
- Small purse or wallet
- Gift card to Walmart, Kmart, or Target
- Grocery gift card

Other Optional Ideas

- Mouthwash
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bus Pass
- Visa gift card
- Hand wipes
- Cleaning Supplies
- Beauty Salon coupon for hair cut
- Afghan or Prayer Shawl

Don't forget the laundry basket!

BASKET OF LOVE

People leaving prison face many challenges often without the aid of family and friends. They cannot afford basic supplies, like those on this shopping list. Your help may make it possible to find employment, housing, and contact family.

HYGIENE PRODUCTS

We all know how important it is for our health to keep clean. Providing the basic products needed for good hygiene removes an enormous financial burden on the newly released and gives the opportunity to make a better impression at a job interview.

Be sure to include shaving supplies when making a basket for men.



Basic hygiene products



Laundry and cleaning supplies and paper products

COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS

Keeping in touch with family and friends is important to a person's overall well being, yet the cost can be a barrier. Shop around for low cost pens, pencils, and paper. A small address book is a great idea also.



A small address/appointment book to store all the new information.



Shop around for the best buys in stationery needs

FOR THE LAUNDROMAT

One of the most difficult challenges is to find employment. It is especially so when one's clothing is not clean or appropriate for the work environment. Gift cards make it possible for the newly released to purchase suitable clothing and food.



Grocery, Walmart, KMart, or Target gift cards really help



It all starts with the laundry basket to fill with love