

2024

Back-to-School Drives Toolkit



Give the Gift of a Successful School Year!

The start of a new school year can be a tough time for anyone; however, it can be particularly challenging for youth in foster care, many of whom are starting the year in a new city or school.

At Treehouse, we recognize how important it is for students to feel good about their clothes and have all their school supplies on the first day of class. This back-to-school season, we will partner with thousands of young people across Washington, equipping them with the supplies they need to confidently embark on a new year. However, we can't do it alone.

Join Treehouse this summer by hosting a material drive or fundraiser as we work to ensure every young person in foster care has access to essential goods, tailored academic assistance, and financial support for extracurricular and educational activities. Make an impact by hosting a drive or fundraiser this summer!

Hosting a drive or fundraiser is an easy way to engage your community, whether it's at your workplace, with friends and family, your book club, or at your place of worship. You can host a material drive, a fundraiser or both!

Drives help keep our free resource store stocked with essential clothing and supplies, while fundraisers help us ship items to youth across WA and allow us to continue providing our vital programs.



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How to Host a Back-To-School Drive



Ensure our resource store stays stocked with essential goods!

Our free resource store operates year-round so it's always a good time to organize a drive. While it is best to donate back-to-school items by mid-July to cater to back-to-school shoppers, we appreciate donations at any time!

How to host a Back-to-School Material Drive!

1. Sign up to host a drive by filling out our [drive sign-up form](#).
2. Review the list of [Back-to-School Supply Needs](#).
3. Choose your strategy! Will your drive focus on a single item, like backpacks or jeans? Or will you collect a variety of things that Treehouse needs?
4. Tap into your network! Rally your office, book club, soccer league, or friends to participate and spread the word about your drive.
5. Encourage participation outside of your local network. Anyone can buy items from the [Treehouse Wish List](#) and ship goods directly to Treehouse.
6. Schedule a time to [drop off your drive items](#) at the Treehouse Store in Seattle. OR come to one of our Drive Drop-off Days and tour the store to see where your drive will be distributed.

Back-to-School Drive Drop-off Days

Sunday, July 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, July 15, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Looking for a fun way to engage participants?

Click the following link and check out our [printable engagement tools!](#)

Treehouse Store
2100 24th Ave S
Suite 100
Seattle, WA, 98144

How to Host a Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser



Why fundraise for back-to-school?

Your fundraising efforts help us expand our store's inventory, ship items to youth statewide and continue providing our vital programs. Sharing your fundraiser with your network can also help introduce people to Treehouse and our services.

How to set up your fundraising page

1. Use the following link to [Start a Fundraiser](#). Set up is easy and only takes a few minutes!
2. Feel free to customize your page by adding your own messaging and photos.
3. Once your page is set up get the word out! Share the link to your fundraiser with your network, or make a QR code to your fundraising page and add it to printed material to make donating by phone easy!

Check out our [Tips for Successful Flyers](#) for more information.

Don't know how to make a QR code? No problem! We would be happy to send you a QR code!
Email us at Drives@treehouseforkids.org

Hosting a fundraiser can look like

- A BBQ or party in a park.
- Giving out baked goods in exchange for donations.
- Movie night with an entry “fee” of one donation to Treehouse.
- A birthday party where you ask for donations in lieu of gifts.
- Encourage your friends to donate their Venmo balances.
- Or any fun creative option you can think of!

Hosting a fundraiser can be easy and fun — we are here to help every step of the way! Contact us at

Drives@treehouseforkids.org
or call 206.498.3910

Back-to-School Supply Needs



CLOTHING - We provide youth with high-quality, trendy products so they can access supplies comparable to their peers. Items you collect through your drive should be **new, high-quality and trendy**. We are currently in critical need of men's clothes and teen backpacks.

Guys'

- Sweatpants
- Hoodies
- Denim
- Athletic shorts
- Graphic T-shirts

Women's

- Denim
- Graphic T-shirts

Child Boy

- Sweatpants
- Denim
- Athletic shorts
- Hoodies
- Short-sleeve Tops
- Long-sleeve Tops

Child Girl

- Shorts
- Skirts
- Hoodies
- Long-sleeve Tops
- Sweatpants
- Leggings
- Denim

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - All items must be new. The list reflects the supply list from Seattle Public Schools.

High School

- Large 3-ring binders
- Dividers
- 2-Pocket Folders
- College ruled paper
- White graph paper
- Mechanical pencils and led
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters
- Sharpies
- TI-84 Graphing Calculator (required for Algebra II and above)
- Adult sized scissors
- Ruler
- 3 X 5 Index Cards
- Backpacks (see below)

Middle School

- Headphones or earbuds
- Pencils, pens, colored-pencils, highlighters
- 2-3 Subject wide-ruled spiral notebooks with pockets
- Composition notebooks
- College or wide-ruled paper
- White graph paper
- Post-it notes
- Basic calculator
- Backpacks (see below)

Elementary School

- Composition notebooks
- Pencils, highlighters
- Fine felt-tipped markers, highlighters
- Pink erasers and pencil sharpener
- Pencil pouch
- Box of crayons (24 count)
- Box of colored pencils (12 count)
- Box of washable markers
- Expo markers
- Glue sticks
- Quart-sized Ziploc bags
- Tissues, Lysol wipes
- Post-it notes
- Wired headphones
- Band-Aids
- Backpacks

High school and middle school backpacks must be NEW, durable and have a laptop pocket. Popular brands include Carhartt, Nike, Adidas and JanSport.

Tools to Engage Your Participants



Looking for fun ways to engage your participants?

Use and print the following tools to help promote your drive or fundraiser!

Print and hang The Back-to-School Drive Poster

Encourage giving and inform participants of the items Treehouse needs most this back-to-school season. [Click here](#) to download the 17x11 printable PDF.



Hang Treehouse Donation Tags to encourage giving!

Each tag represents the needs of a youth who uses our free resource store.

Click the following link to [print your own Donation Tags](#) (the PDF is set up for double sided printing).

Print and hang the Back-to-School Bushels Poster to celebrate those who have given and encourage others to participate

Print the [Back-to-School Bushels Poster](#) (17x11) to display in your office, church, community center, or wherever you are organizing your drive.

Then, print a batch of the [Back-to-School Apples](#). Once individuals make a donation or purchase an item for Treehouse, they can write their name on an apple and place it on the bushel poster!



Questions? Contact us at:
Drives@treehouseforkids.org
206.498.3910



Social Media Tools



Dont forget to tag Treehouse!

 [@treehousetweets](https://twitter.com/treehousetweets)

 [@treehouseforkids](https://www.instagram.com/treehouseforkids)

 [@treehouseforkids](https://www.facebook.com/treehouseforkids)

Media links to share

[Foster Care Facts](#)

[Meet the Treehouse Class of 2023](#)

[Meet Karla and her family](#)

[Meet three sisters in Graduation Success](#)

[Meet Mapenzi – one of the Treehouse Fellows](#)

[Tash & Maiya: Treehouse Alum in Conversation](#)

Suggested copy for social media:

- Summer has just begun, but @treehouseforkids is busy ensuring youth in foster care have the supplies they need for a successful back-to-school! Donate to my Treehouse {drive and/or fundraiser} and help ensure youth in foster care have everything they need for the new year. {Give details for your drive and/or add link to your donation page here}
- Last year, @treehouseforkids expanded all its programs statewide, ensuring that youth in foster care could access its services regardless of their location! Join me in supporting their work so that youth across WA have the supplies and support they need to succeed in school and beyond. {Give details for your drive and/or add link to your donation page here}
- Join me in supporting @treehouseforkids and youth in foster care this back-to-school. Every donation, big or small, makes a huge impact. Your contribution helps provide new clothes, school supplies, educational resources and essential support to kids statewide. Together, we can make the transition back to school a little easier for youth in foster care. {Give details for your drive and/or add a link to your donation page here}
- Wondering how you can make a difference this summer? Donate to my @treehouseforkids {drive and/or fundraiser} and help ensure youth in foster care have the supplies and support they need for a successful school year. {Give details for your drive and/or add link to your donation page here}

Outreach Email Copy



Edit copy as needed to best communicate with your network.

Dear [Friend's Name],

As the back-to-school season approaches, I wanted to let you know that I've decided to partner with Treehouse. Treehouse supports youth in foster care throughout Washington through programs that provide material needs like clothing and school supplies, fund extracurricular and school activities, and provide individualized coaching and support for academic success and the transition to adult independence.

The start of a new school year can be a particularly challenging time for youth in foster care, many of whom are starting the year in a new city or school. This back-to-school season, Treehouse will work with thousands of youth across the state, providing high-quality school supplies, clothing, and funding for identity-developing experiences that every youth deserves. Treehouse even has a team of staff dedicated to mitigating issues that arise from starting a new school (like credit or IEP transfer issues).

I've started a {fundraising campaign and/or drive} to help Treehouse continue their work, and I invite you to join me in making a difference.

Every donation, big or small, makes a huge impact. Together, we can help set youth in foster care up for a successful school year.

[Insert details for your drive and/or add the link to your donation page here]

Thank you for considering joining me and for supporting youth in foster care.

Warmest wishes,

[Your Name]

Talking Points For Hosts

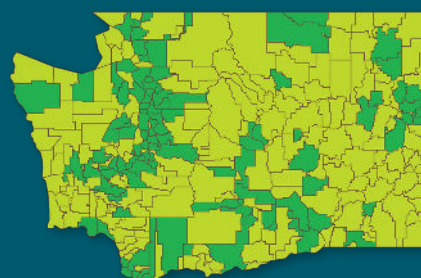


Treehouse partners with youth in foster care by providing:

- Clothes, toys, school supplies, hygiene items and more.
- Weekly one-on-one academic support for youth 8th through 12th grade.
- Advocacy skills to youth and caregivers for youth K through 12.
- Funding for identity-developing experiences like summer camp, sports, haircare and more.
- Funding so youth can get their driver's license, including funding for driver's ed, licensing fees, car insurance and more.
- Weekly one-on-one support to guide the transition from high school to adulthood independence.

Last year, Treehouse expanded programs statewide, ensuring youth could access our services regardless of their location.

The Impact of Statewide Expansion



■ School districts served before April 2023

■ New school districts served as of April 3, 2023

Accomplishments from Last Year



91,700

clothing items, books, backpacks and other supplies distributed



6,074

requests funded to cover costs for housing, transportation, school fees and other basic needs



1,407

educators, caregivers and community members attended 80 trainings led by Treehouse

Check out our [2023 Impact Report](#) for some of our accomplishments from last year.

Treehouse Logo



Use the Treehouse logo on your promotional material!



treehouse™

[Click here](#) to download a JPG of the logo.

