

Dear all of the volunteers from Hettle Andrews

Thank you so much for giving your time and efforts to put together an extremely kind donation of Buddy Bags to be given out to the children we support at The Haven. We are incredibly grateful to have received a donation of such unique items - they really do have such a positive impact on the children we support and give them happiness and a sense of comfort whilst they rebuild their lives following the trauma of abuse that they have experienced.

Women and children arrive at our refuges having fled domestic abuse and frequently arrive with very few possessions. Often, they only own the clothes they are standing in. For a child, as you know, this really does turn their world upside down. Therefore, receiving items such as the Buddy Bags that you have all kindly put together and donated to The Haven, helps the children to feel comfortable and secure whilst they recover.

You have put a lot of effort into each bag to ensure it is age appropriate and that there are items to brighten up their days. For our children, the bags often resemble home and security and allow them to feel welcome and safe at our refuge. Having had to leave their own toys, teddies and books behind, these bags offer a piece of home and give the children something that is completely their own, already helping to restore independence and for that we cannot thank you enough.

Children are then able to take their bag with them when they are ready to leave refuge, taking their new possessions with them into their new, safe life.

On behalf of all staff, board members, volunteers and most importantly, women and children at The Haven, we would like to thank you again for your lovely donations which have been so gratefully received. Please pass on our thanks to all those who volunteered to help put the bags together. Your generosity and support can make the time spent living in refuge a happier experience for vulnerable women and children. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely



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