

Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex, Inc. Wish List

Project Self-Sufficiency strives to address as many needs as possible in order to stabilize families so that they can begin the intensive work required to achieve lasting self-sufficiency. Families come to us at many points in their journey: families who are truly destitute and homeless; women entering the paid workforce for the first time due to divorce or the death or disability of a spouse; newly pregnant women who feel unprepared for parenthood; working families whose low skill jobs don't pay enough for them to make ends meet; youth who have dropped out of high school and are looking for direction; and many, many others. The support we offer must be as diverse as the families we serve.

Food Pantry PSS operates a USDA Food Pantry on-site, where our participants can receive nonperishable food items and frozen meats, as well as personal care items – feminine hygiene products, soaps, paper goods, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc.

Infant Care Items Diapers, wipes, diaper creams, and formula are stocked in our Food Pantry and can also be delivered directly to the homes of mothers participating in our home visitation programs.

New Holiday Toys & Gifts Each year, PSS runs the Season of Hope Toy Shop, which provides gifts for over 2,000 children in Sussex and Northern Warren County and neighboring communities. Cash donations, gift cards, and new, unwrapped gifts for infants through teens are needed.

Vehicles Lack of transportation is one of the biggest obstacles many PSS families face, so we gratefully accept donations of reliable vehicles with current inspection. Participants enter a wait list for available vehicles after going through a screening process; those who receive a vehicle commit to performing community service.

School Supplies Each August, PSS hosts a Back to School Fair where fully packed backpacks are distributed. Supplies such as notebooks, binders, folders, loose leaf paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, highlighters, etc. are needed.

Little Sprouts Early Education Center Volunteers are welcome in our on-site childcare center (fingerprinting and background check required). We can use classroom helpers in the infant and toddler areas and are always looking for people with a special talent to share with our preschoolers – music and movement, arts and crafts, gardening, etc.

Volunteers

- **Events** PSS hosts a number of large annual events that require the assistance of volunteers. There are holiday parties – Halloween Spooktacular, Holiday Party, Spring Fling – as well as a Family Expo, the Back to School Fair, Community Health Fairs and Career Fairs. In addition, the annual Season of Hope Toy Shop is a major undertaking for which much help is needed setting up, running the shop, and cleaning up afterward.
- **Mentors** PSS is also interested in recruiting mentors who would work one-on-one with participants to model successful career and parenting/life skills.
- **Clerical Assistance** There is always a need for volunteers to help staff the PSS reception desk and perform data entry. We are also currently recruiting volunteers who would like to be trained in answering the phones for the Central Intake Program, a call center where residents can get information and referrals about community resources.

Contact: Alice Prendergast **Email:** aprendergast@projectselfsufficiency.org

Phone: 973-940-3500