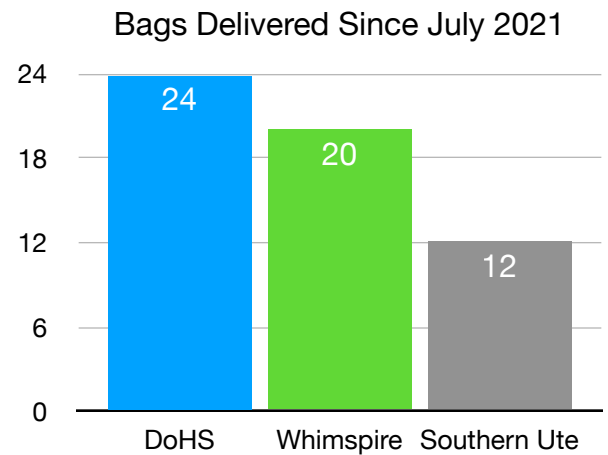


# Mission: Support Kids

Helping to provide comfort and support  
to children in foster care

## Thank You For Making This Possible!

Since our formation as a basic needs team of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango (UUFD), Mission: Support Kids has delivered 56 backpacks to help support local children going into foster care. We started with serving the Department of Human Services, and thanks to the generous donations of UUFD members and friends, we were able to expand to serve the both the Whimspire foster care agency and the Southern Ute foster agency.



## Fundraising

In order to reach our goals, we will need to have a steady source of funding. We applied for a grant through the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program and were awarded \$11,500. Our next steps include starting a coffee fundraiser and raising community awareness of our mission with a bake sale at the Durango Farmers Market. Coffee and baked goods will be provided by Singletrack Coffee and Tea.

## Are you interested in helping?

Mission: Support Kids is a part of UUFD's Social Justice Team. We meet on the first Thursday of every month. We currently alternate between core team meetings and assembly meetings. Our next assembly meeting is on March 3rd at 3pm in the Columbine house. You can contact Alex for more information at [a.rosetodak@gmail.com](mailto:a.rosetodak@gmail.com).



## Moving Forward

Helping to reduce trauma does not end with a backpack. Therefore, we continue to connect with those involved in the foster care community to learn the best ways we can offer our help.

To this end we have been interviewing former foster parents to gain more insight into what can be done to support children in foster care. They have expressed that supporting these youth includes supporting their foster families and biological families. Some of the things they have suggested include:

- Helping to provide respite care
- Increased training through books and/or classes about the effects of trauma
- Putting together a foster family support group
- Helping to recruit new foster parents

We look forward to continuing to learn and explore new ideas for helping to support children in foster care.

### What do we do?

**Mission:** Support Kids provides comfort and care to children entering foster care by assembling age- and gender-appropriate backpacks filled with items like stuffed animals, personal care items, journals or coloring books, soap and shampoo. Whenever a child is being placed in foster care, a case worker gives the child one of our backpacks, which becomes theirs to keep no matter where they live. Our team worked with child therapists to confirm that the backpack with items helps with creating an emotional safety net during a very traumatic experience.

**Inspiration!** Why is this mission so important to us? Take a look at this TedX video to find out: <https://youtu.be/xb0GKVJWhL8>.