



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County of Rockland participates in community service project to benefit homeless children

'Project Night Night' honors Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

New City, NY – Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef and the Rockland County Youth Bureau's AmeriCorps Program announce a community service project, *Project Night Night* that donates over 25,000 packages each year, free of charge, to homeless children in need of childhood essentials. The project is in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Each *Night Night* package contains a new security blanket, an age-appropriate children's book, and a stuffed animal -- all nestled inside of a new canvas tote bag. By providing objects of reliable comfort, *Project Night Night* helps to reduce trauma and advances the emotional and cognitive well-being of the children served. Each child who receives one of the packages benefits from owning a book, which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket, which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal, which can become a cherished friend.

"We are proud to be taking part in this community service project for children who are less fortunate," said Vanderhoef. "Those who wish to participate can help by filling one or more tote bags for a needy child. What a great way to honor the memory of a prominent leader such as Martin Luther King, Jr."

The Rockland Family Shelter and the Rockland County Department of Social Services foster families will be provided with 80 *Project Night Night* packages. The packages are designed for children 11 years old and under.

For more information or if you would like to participate and fill one or more of the tote bags, please contact Kim Andrews at the Youth Bureau at 845-638-5166. All **NEWLY** purchased items should be dropped off at the Youth Bureau, 18 New Hempstead Road in New City, no later than **January 18, 2012**.

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