



The Giving Factory

Volunteering at the Giving Factory

“Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.” -Martin Luther King



About the Giving Factory:

In 2009, 16,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves in our Giving Factory. Adults as old as 85 and kids as young as 5 came together to help make a difference in the lives of children living in low-income and homeless situations across the state of Massachusetts. Through the help of these volunteers Cradles to Crayons provided 45,000 children with the items they needed most.

Come roll up your sleeves and experience a tangible, hands on volunteer opportunity!

Volunteer Work Stations

Shoe Station

- Shoe donations need to be paired up, inspected for quality, cleaned, and sized before being placed on C2C’s “good-to-go” shelves.

Book Boulevard

- Inspect the condition and content of donated books, ensuring book quality meets C2C standards and content is appropriate.
- Books that pass inspection will then be sorted by age based on guidelines C2C provides.

Clothing Sort

- Inspect each article of clothing that comes through C2C’s doors one at a time.
- Search for the slightest of stains and tears, and ensure all buttons are intact and zippers work.
- Once an article of clothing passes inspection, sort clothing based on sex, season, type, and size.
- Remember C2C’s motto: “if it’s good enough for your child, it’s good enough for ours.”

Outfit Matching

- Match one week’s worth of outfits for boys and girls ranging in age from newborn to 12 years old.
- Packs include matching tops and bottoms, new socks and underwear, pajamas, and any available accessories.

Toy World

- All donations go through an initial sort/inspection into categories based on toy type and battery use.
- Each category of toy is further inspected for “perfect toys” - all puzzles are counted piece by piece to ensure nothing is missing, dolls are matched with outfits and accessories, batteries are inspected, play-worlds are matched with corresponding vehicles, little people, animals, etc.
- All perfect toys are then cleaned and placed on our “good-to-go” shelves.

Shopping

- Volunteers of appropriate age are given a wish list of an individual child, provided by the child’s social worker, and asked to take a shopping cart through C2C’s “good-to-go” shelves, filling the order to the best of their abilities.
- Volunteers will find a pack of clothes, pick out a pack of books at the child’s reading level, and try to find toys that will bring a smile to the child’s face.

Donation Drop-offs

- Help with donation drop-offs, unload truck deliveries, and help load cars with out-going donations.
- Dock volunteers will be asked to do heavy lifting and can expect to help with garbage removal and emptying Salvation Army donation bins.

Sign up to volunteer! Visit www.cradlestocrayons.org or email volunteerboston@cradlestocrayons.org

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