

## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

Media contact: Laura Ellis 412.952.7844 / [lellis@veritaspr.com](mailto:lellis@veritaspr.com)



## Global Links Seeks Individuals, Groups and Families to Assemble and Donate Personal Care Kits for Neighbors in Need

*Simple instructions make it easy for groups and individuals of all ages to assemble kits*



PITTSBURGH – October 4, 2023 – People of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to participate in a volunteer effort to provide critically needed, basic hygiene items to vulnerable neighbors in the Pittsburgh region.

Personal hygiene represents a foundational component of health, but personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, soap, shampoo, deodorant and lotion are typically not covered by federal assistance programs (food stamps), meaning that low-income families, seniors and others often go without. In response, **Global Links has set a goal of assembling and distributing 8,000 kits this year** to its community partners in western Pennsylvania, including human service agencies, food pantries and other nonprofits in the region.



*Pitt Students for Sustainability recently prepared care kits for Global Links.*

Global Links has made it easy for individuals and groups to help by providing complete instructions for assembling care kits, which contain full-size-products not covered under SNAP and other government assistance programs. The assembled kits can be dropped off at Global Links' headquarters in Green Tree.

**Instructions for purchasing items, packing and dropping off kit can be found at [globallinks.org](http://globallinks.org)**

“Our Personal Care Kit Project provides dignity, health and hygiene to local neighbors who are undergoing financial hardship,” says Global Links Executive Director Angela Garcia. “Building the kits is a great way to involve children of all ages in the practice of being a helper, as children can easily participate in the process of shopping for, sorting and packing the items. We encourage families, community, faith and

corporate groups, and anyone looking to help their neighbors to participate.”

**PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY:** On October 14, 2023, attendees at the **Greek Orthodox Young Adult Leaders Conference** will be assembling Personal Care Kits as a service project on behalf of Global Links. The group will assemble kits from 2 pm to 3 pm in the Oakmont Junior Ballroom at the DoubleTree Inn by Hilton Hotel in Green Tree. Additional volunteer photo opportunities can also be arranged.

To learn more, visit [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org) or email [glvolunteer@globallinks.org](mailto:glvolunteer@globallinks.org) or [info@globallinks.org](mailto:info@globallinks.org).

# Personal Care Kits Project

Imagine having to choose between heating your house or paying your water bill.

What if you couldn't afford "extras" like soap, toothpaste, and deodorant, none of which are covered by SNAP (food stamp) benefits?

Families are forced to make tough choices. You can help your neighbors by providing essential personal care items to help them stay healthy.

## 1. COLLECT/PURCHASE ITEMS:

Each kit must include 1 of each of the following full sized items. Fragrance-free and gender neutral are best where possible. If you buy regular full sized items, they should all fit in a 1 gallon ziploc style bag. If you buy larger items, you will need a 2 gallon bag.

- Shampoo (12-16 oz)
- Bar of soap (3.5 oz)
- Toothbrush (individually packaged preferred - if you have a multipack please do not open it, just put the whole thing in the kit)
- Toothpaste - mint (6 oz)
- Dental floss (100 yards)
- Moisturizer/lotion (16 oz)
- Deodorant (3 oz)
- Gallon-sized ziplock style bags
- All items should be NEW and FULL SIZED. No travel sized or XL please
- Each kit must include 1 of each item. Please do not include extra items not on this list.
- Where possible, please choose gender-neutral, fragrance-free items with less chemicals and no parabens
- Please consider purchasing items from local vendors/suppliers. Please also consider name brand products.

## 2. PACK KITS:

Once you have all your items collected or purchased, pack them up! Items facing all the same direction are easiest for us to process. Mark on the bag the earliest expiration date of all products and whether the kits include items marketed toward Female, Male, or Gender Neutral based on scents.

**Don't forget to share some photos!** Tag Global Links on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)) and [#HealthForAll](#) [#NeighborsHelpingNeighbors](#)

## 3. CONTACT FREE DROP OFF:

The donation drop off is at Global Links: 700 Trumbull Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Pull into the lot just past our building on the side with the garage doors. You will see a shelter in the parking lot. You may leave your items under this shelter.

**Questions? Email [sbodow@globallinks.org](mailto:sbodow@globallinks.org)**

**Thank you for helping our neighbors live with health and dignity!**

**About Global Links**

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the community to rescue hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials every year. These materials are shared with public health facilities around the world and with non-profit organizations in Western Pennsylvania that are providing care for their community's most vulnerable people. For more information, visit [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org).  
*Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.*