

I am an American We are One Nation

GIRL DELIVERS LOVE TO THE HOMELESS

10-year-old's survival kits, called Snuggle Sacks, offer necessities, encouragement

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Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit onetation.usatoday.com.

Addisyn Goss

Location: Lake Fenton, Mich. **Age:** 10 **Profession:** 4th-grader at Central Elementary School in Linden, Mich.; founder of Snuggle Sacks, survival kits for the homeless

Mission: To give toiletries, snacks, water and other necessities such as socks, hats, gloves and blankets, in bags to those who are homeless.



RYAN GARZA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Addisyn Goss of Lake Fenton, Mich., collects donations of toiletries, snacks, bottled water, clothing items and blankets for the Snuggle Sacks she distributes to homeless people.

Addisyn Goss believes that everyone deserves snuggles.

Even the homeless. Just like her grandpa was.

After meeting her grandfather for the first time two years ago at a veterans home in Indiana, Addisyn, now 10, learned he had previously been homeless for years.

That's when she decided to go on a mission.

The fourth-grader created Snuggle Sacks — survival kits with toiletries, snacks and warm coverings for men and women on the streets — and delivers them to soup kitchens and other locations in Lansing, the state capital of Michigan, and Flint, about a 20-minute drive from Addisyn's Genesee County home.

Addisyn, with help from her family, has delivered more than 1,075 Snuggle Sacks, with more expected to go out thanks to recent donations.

And thanks to gifts of child-themed toothbrushes and smaller gloves, Addisyn now plans to create similar care kits for children who are homeless.

“I’m happy knowing I help other people beside myself,” the Lake Fenton girl said.

A room in the finished basement of Addisyn’s home is Snuggle Sacks headquarters.

In about two minutes, Addisyn loads a clear plastic zip bag with the toiletries and goodies, such as granola bars and fruit snacks.

She also adds a card entitled “a word of hope.”

“I know you may be feeling down right now and don’t think life is fair,” the card reads. “Please remember that there are people who care about you, and things will get better. I hope this makes you smile. With love, Addisyn.”

The toiletry bag is put into a cloth bag with a handle. A blanket and a bottle of water are final touches.

The blankets and socks are some of the most popular items for the recipients.

“To see her take her own cause and run with it, it blows my mind,” Addisyn’s mother, Stacy Daul, 34, said of what her daughter is doing for the homeless. “You can see it on their faces — it makes their day.”

Q& A WITH ADDISYN GOSS

What does it mean to you to be an American?

For me to be an American, we have our freedom instead of being slaves.

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

Addisyn was motivated to launch her effort after visiting her grandfather for the first time at a veteran’s home in Indiana. She learned from him that he was homeless for at least six years, that he moved from Michigan to Indiana during the years that he was homeless, and that he when he was homeless, his leg was run over and injured. I told him that it was because of him when I started it. He said, “I’m so proud of you, and I’m glad you did it because of me.”

What gives you hope?

When everybody comes up to me and says, “You’re doing a good job on it,” and that just makes me keep on going, and it gives me a lot of hope.

What concerns you?

Addisyn said that what concerns her the most is that people, including criminals, could harm the homeless or those who are living on the streets.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

I hope to accomplish, like, where it can go all over the nation and ... we can help several people all over the state.

For more: Find Snuggle Sacks on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/snugglesacksmi/> or via email at [snugglesax@ gmail.com](mailto:snugglesax@gmail.com).