DAYS FOR GIRLS SPRINGFIELD

The DAYS FOR GIRLS SPRINGFIELD Team operates under the umbrella of DAYS FOR GIRLS INTERNATIONAL, a non-profit, grassroots organization which helps provide reusable feminine hygiene products to girls in impoverished communities. With the help of more than 100,000 volunteers working in teams around the world, over 2.6 million girls in more than 144 countries have received feminine hygiene kits and important health education, enabling them to attend school even during their menstrual cycles. Access to more education leads to increased opportunities for these girls to improve their lives and those of their families and communities. ***Educated girls have a real chance at breaking the cycle of poverty in just one generation.***

For many girls in developing countries, not having feminine sanitary supplies means DAYS without school, DAYS without income, DAYS without leaving the house. Girls use rags, leaves, mattress stuffing, corn husks, dried animal manure, feathers, ashes, grass, anything they can find...but still miss up to two months of school every year. This results in a high drop-out rate due to the inability of girls to keep up with their classes, and many girls become child brides. ***DAYS FOR GIRLS is helping to change that reality.***

Since 2008, DAYS FOR GIRLS has grown to more than 1100 teams worldwide, including 81 in Canada (4 in Manitoba). In June 2015, a Springfield team was established, and since that time many volunteers, both women and men, have come forward to donate their time and expertise making and assembling kits for distribution. To date, DAYS FOR GIRLS SPRINGFIELD has provided kits to girls and women in Kenya, Cambodia, Uganda, Ghana, Iraq, Cameroon, Nigeria, Lebanon, El Salvador, Somalia, Romania, Guyana, Haiti, Benin, Togo, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Guatemala. Each kit gives back 180 days to a girl over a three-year period (the expected life span of a kit) when otherwise she would be forced to miss school or work.

Alone or gathered in groups, volunteers help by laundering and pressing fabric, tracing and cutting patterns, sewing, serging, installing snaps, assembling and packing kits and fundraising.

In addition to volunteering time and talent, we welcome donations of:
1) 100% polyester thread (any colour)
2) New girls' panties, sizes 12-16 (not bikini or boy shorts)
3) New washcloths (not thick, not white)
4) Hotel-size soap
5) 5/8" grosgrain ribbon (minimum 2.5 yard length)
6) Good quality cotton or flannelette prints (see list on reverse)

Fabric donations of good quality 100% cotton *prints* (similar to quilter's cotton) and flannelette *prints* are always needed. Quality matters because kits have to endure frequent washings, often in harsh conditions, and girls depend on these kits to last three years.

We look for colourful stain-busting prints, preferably botanicals, florals, geometrics, and batiks in medium to dark colours. Some prints are offensive or illegal in some areas:
- Prints with eyes, faces and figures cannot be sent to Muslim communities.
- No camouflage prints as these are illegal in many countries.
- Food, guns, knives, culture-specific themes and girly-glam are avoided.
- Bugs, reptiles and animals are predators in some areas, and fabrics with these are uncomfortable for the girls to wear. Butterflies are okay.

A single kit costs approximately $15 to make, and contains 1 drawstring bag, 2 pairs of panties, 1 moisture-resistant transport bag, 1 washcloth, 1 hotel-sized soap, 2 moisture-resistant shields, 8 high-quality flannelette liner pads, and a care and use instruction sheet.

Will you help us help the girls? We gratefully accept monetary donations to help purchase supplies required to create the kits. Please consider donating in honour of mothers and grandmothers who lived with feminine hygiene challenges in the past, or to celebrate daughters and granddaughters whose futures are not gender-compromised.

Donations may be made:
1) online through Canada Helps (choose Springfield location from list)
2) by e-transfer to springfieldmb@daysforgirls.org
3) by cheque (payable to DAYS FOR GIRLS SPRINGFIELD) mailed to: 68008 Poplar Rd, Cooks Creek MB, R5M 0C7

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of $20 or more, or by request.

For more information, please contact:

Shirley Gibb: 204-444-3539 caddylake5@gmail.com
Barb Zawada: 204-444-2171 bzawada@mymts.net

You are also invited to check out the DfG International website at www.daysforgirls.org or follow our DfG Springfield MB Team on Facebook.

There are a lot of things in the world that are hard to change.
This doesn't have to be one of them.

DAYS FOR GIRLS Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.