About Bravery Bags

What Is a Bravery Bag?

A Bravery Bag is a bag given to families in the hospital after their child has had heart surgery or other heart procedures. When a child needs a heart surgery or procedure, the whole family has to be very brave—the child himself/herself, the parents or caregivers, and any siblings. The Bravery Bag helps the family have courage and strength through this time of crisis and to know they are not alone.

Need for Bravery Bags

About 1 in every 110 babies is born with a heart defect each year (approximately 40,000) making it the most common birth defect in the U.S. Nearly 25% of these children will need open-heart surgery or other procedures to survive. Many times, families find out suddenly about their child’s heart defect and the need for surgery after birth, and the babies is whisked away by helicopter or ambulance to a hospital in another city or state. Parents and caregivers often follow the baby, sometimes with little more than the contents of their wallet or purse.

Bravery Bag Contents

Mended Little Hearts peer-to-peer support groups provide Bravery Bags to families in the hospital to help make their stay easier and to let them know they are not alone. These adorable, reusable bags contain a water bottle (BPH-free and made in the U.S.), a stuffed lion with its birth certificate, the Courageous Heart Token, a pen, a wristband and a parent resource guide. The groups add toiletry items, comfort items, and items for siblings at a local level in accordance to hospital guidelines. Families often tell us how much it means to them to get a Bravery Bag and how useful the items in the bag are to them. Receiving a bag also lets the family know that someone cares about them and that they are not alone.
We Could Use Your Help

Mended Little Hearts’ Bravery Bag goal is **10,000 bags in 2018**—that is one for each baby born with a heart defect that needs surgery or a heart procedure each year. Currently, Mended Little Hearts gives bags to over 5,500 families, but we believe that all families should receive a bag to help them through this difficult and sometimes devastating time. With your help and support, we can give bags to 100% of kids and families in the hospital after heart surgeries and procedures.
Bravery Bag Drive

Imagine finding out that your baby or child has something wrong with his or her heart. This happens to about 40,000 new families each year. In fact, congenital heart defects are the most common birth defects in the United States.

Mended Little Hearts provides Bravery Bags full of comfort items, toiletry items and fun items to families with children in the hospital after heart surgeries or other procedures. The bags let them know someone is there to help them through their journey, and families are instantly connected to a caring support network.

Last year, Mended Little Hearts groups around the nation gave over 5,500 bags to families. Our goal is to reach 10,000 in 2018. Can you help us?

This is what families who received the bags told us:

“When I got the bag, I cried. It meant so much to know there was someone out there who understood what we were going through and really cared.”

“We were suddenly sent to a hospital away from home for our daughter’s surgery. We were so scared, and we had forgotten to bring things we needed that we found in the bag. We were so grateful.”

“The bag let us know we were not alone and gave my kids something to do when their brother had surgery. Thank you, Mended Little Hearts.”

Please help us support families and make a donation for our Bravery Bag Drive. It means so much to families whose children are in the hospital.

Thank you for helping our families!
Charitable Giving for Employees

Imagine finding out that your child has a congenital heart defect. This happens to about 40,000 new families each year. In fact, congenital heart defects are the most common birth defects in the United States.

Children are often sent to another city where a hospital can perform open-heart surgery or other procedures. Parents may have nothing more than the clothes they are wearing and the contents of their wallet or purse with them as they sit by a hospital bedside hoping that their child survives.

Mended Little Hearts provides Bravery Bags to let families know that we care and that they are not alone. Over 5,500 bags were donated last year. Families who receive a Bravery Bag are connected to a caring support network and given information to help them cope.

This is what families have told us after they received a Bravery Bag:

“*When I got the bag, I cried. It meant so much to know there was someone out there who understood what we were going through and really cared.*”

“*We were suddenly sent to a hospital away from home for our daughter’s surgery. We were so scared, and we had forgotten to bring things we needed that we found in the bag. We were so grateful.*”

“*The bag let us know we were not alone and gave my kids something to do when their brother had surgery. Thank you, Mended Little Hearts.*”

Your employees can help Mended Little Hearts children and their families by hosting a Bravery Bag Event. We will provide the information and materials you need and speakers for your event.

*Thank you for helping our families!*