

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Office of Victim Advocate in conjunction with the Department of Corrections, Parole Board and PA Children and Youth Administrators are collecting new pajamas for foster children across the Commonwealth.

When children come into care they do so suddenly and often with very little resources.

"As a foster parent myself, every child who has come into my home has done so without adequate supplies and clothing. Most of them did not have a clean pair of pajamas if any. As a foster parent, it's hard to plan for the arrival of a child when age, size and gender are often unknown until the last minute. By equipping all of our Children and Youth agencies with new pajamas, workers can give the child the ability to pick out a brand new pair of pajamas before going to a new home. Our goal is to give that child a bit of comfort during a very uncomfortable time." Jennifer Storm, Victim Advocate

The average age of a foster child in PA is 10 years old. There are slightly more boys than girls in care.

NEW pajamas of all sizes, colors and designs for ages infant to 21 years of ages are being accepted at sites listed below.

If you're able to donate a pair of new pajamas, please visit a [drop-off site](#) by mid-April. Last year, donors across the US and Canada collectively blessed 700 Dauphin County foster families with new pajamas. Because of that overwhelming support, this year the team asked counties to sign up if they have a need for pajamas. Thirteen counties are now participating and will receive donations this year: **Allegheny, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Fulton, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Tioga, Venango, Washington, Wayne, and York.**

In addition to the [drop-off sites](#), Office of Victim Advocate staff members will be available to collect donations at the following two events:

- PA Family Support Alliance's Rally at the Capitol Rotunda on Monday April 4 at 10:30 am
- National Crime Victim's Rights Rally at the Capitol Rotunda on Monday April 9 at 11:00 am

It's important that donations arrive at the drop-off locations by mid-April so that they can be sorted and distributed to foster families in need. If you need assistance getting donations to a site, please call 1-800-563-6399.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of children in Pennsylvania.



For the latest updates, [follow the Office of Victim Advocate on Facebook.](#)