

Donation Guidelines

Thank you for thinking of our patients and expressing interest in donating items. Out of respect for the sensitive condition of our patients, we kindly ask that your items are created in a smoke-free environment. To ensure your items or projects are suitable for patients, please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@osumc.edu or call **614-293-3983** prior to starting a project, organizing a donation or bringing a donation.

<u>We can accept:</u>	<u>We are not able to accept:</u>
▪ Blankets (fleece tied, knitted, crocheted or quilted) ▪ Neck pillows (new materials or inflatable, waterproof and cleanable) ▪ Hats/scarves (knitted, crocheted, cotton or fleece) ▪ Crossword/Word Find/Sudoku books ▪ Hand-held games ▪ Magazines (within the last four months) ▪ Books (gently used) ▪ Journals or notepads ▪ Small packages of tissues ▪ Stuffed animals (new) ▪ Some hygiene items (new and sealed)	▪ Food, snacks, candy or beverages ▪ Live flowers, leaves, plants or pinecones ▪ Latex balloons ▪ Candles ▪ Items with glitter ▪ Skincare products ▪ Lip balm ▪ Body wash ▪ Perfume ▪ Body lotion ▪ Makeup ▪ Clothes, jewelry, purses or belts ▪ Socks or slippers ▪ Damaged books or children's books

Sewn/crocheted/knitted items

These handmade items bring comfort and warmth to patients and their families. We ask that you use new fabric and materials and that they are created in a smoke-free environment.

- Blankets (fleece tied, knitted, crocheted or quilted)
- Hats (knitted, crocheted, cotton or fleece)
- Neck pillows (cotton or fleece)

Reading Materials

Patients and families appreciate reading materials. Magazines should be “newsstand”-type publications, should be less than four months old and should have any address information removed. Gently used books are also appreciated. We are unable to accept children's books, textbooks, cookbooks, guide or collector books, dictionaries/encyclopedias or damaged books (stained, dog-eared, broken spine or water/smoke damage).

Stuffed Animals

Stuffed animals are a comforting item for our patients. When donating a stuffed animal, we ask that it is new with the tags still attached. Stuffed animals should not have small parts that could be a choking hazard, or long strings or ribbons that could be a strangulation hazard. We ask that retail value of each stuffed animal does not exceed \$15. If you are considering donating more than one stuffed animal, we kindly ask you donate in multiples (ex., two of the exact same teddy bear). This matching “pair of bears” would then be shared with a patient and their child/grandchild.

Activity Items

Activity items provide a positive diversion and support relaxation.

- Puzzle books (Crossword, Word Find or Sudoku), new without any writing
- Adult coloring books (new)
- Hand-held games (with batteries)
- Stress balls and fidget items
- Playing cards (new)
- Puzzles (Sealed box/100-250 pieces)

Hygiene Items

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant are items we share with family members or friends who are visiting or staying with hospitalized patients. Please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@osumc.edu or call **614-293-3983** to learn of what item(s) we need at the present time.

Crafts / Care Bags

Please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@osumc.edu or call **614-293-3983** if you have an idea for a craft or are interested in donating a Care Bag that includes multiple items.

Greeting cards

We ask that cards offer a general greeting or message of encouragement. We ask the phrase *get well soon* is avoided due to many patients undergoing long-term treatment plans. Cards can include your own artwork/illustrations. We recommend using cardstock, colored paper, scrapbooking supplies, stamps or stickers. Patients from many faiths are treated here, so please refrain from including religious messages, such as *God Bless* or *Sending prayers/praying for you*.

It is also nice to include a brief sentence or verbiage on who is writing the card and what group, school or company you are from. A signature on the card is not required. If you choose to sign it, please include only your first name. If your card idea includes a joke or pun, please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@osumc.edu or call **614-293-3983** for approval.

Please know that we find it works best if we can offer 10 carefully made cards instead of 100 cards that were created hastily. Quality over quantity is greatly appreciated.

Front of card:

- “Sending you hope and encouragement”
- “Hope this brightens your day”
- “Your strength and courage are an inspiration”
- “Sending you support”
- “Sending a smile”

Introduction:

- I am rider in Pelotonia.
- My name is [insert name], and I am a part of [name of organization].
- My name is [insert name], and I am in [insert grade].
- I am an associate with [insert company name].

Body of Message:

- “I wanted to send my support and let you know there is a community of people thinking of you during your care and treatment. I hope with each day you gain strength and energy. We're all rooting for you.”

Signature:

- A signature on the card is not required. If you choose to sign it, please include only your first name.

Questions / Donation Drop-off

If you have a question about a donation idea or would like to schedule a time to drop off items, please contact us at volunteer@osumc.edu or call **614-293-3983**.



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