

# Buddy Bags Program

Tens of thousands of children are in emergency care in Australia every single year.

Heidi\* is 12 years old. She has three younger sisters, the smallest being only three years old.

Since their parents divorce and mother's subsequent remarriage, Heidi has been so protective of her little sisters. And tragically, she needs to be. Heidi's step father is a violent alcoholic who regularly hits, pushes and screams at her, her sisters and her mum. In a fit of rage, he killed their four year old golden labrador, Sally, after she barked at him when he was punching her mum.

This morning, as their step father sleeps, Heidi, her mum and sisters leave for school as usual. Instead, they head for a domestic violence shelter. To get away inconspicuously and safely, they leave everything behind and arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing.

**Heidi is not alone. There are so many children her age with a similar story.**



To provide a little respite at this incredibly traumatic time, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation will arrange for Buddy Bags to be at the refuge for all four children when they arrive. These bags contain brand new, basic necessities and personal items such as toiletries, pyjamas, socks, underwear, pillowcase, a book, photo frame and a teddy bear.

Buddy Bags are something children can call their own, no matter where they go. By providing children with belongings of their very own, it also helps begin the process of restoring a sense of safety and security into their lives.



The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Buddy Bags Program was created in response to the overwhelming need to provide essential items to the tens of thousands of children who are placed in emergency foster care or domestic violence refuges each year.

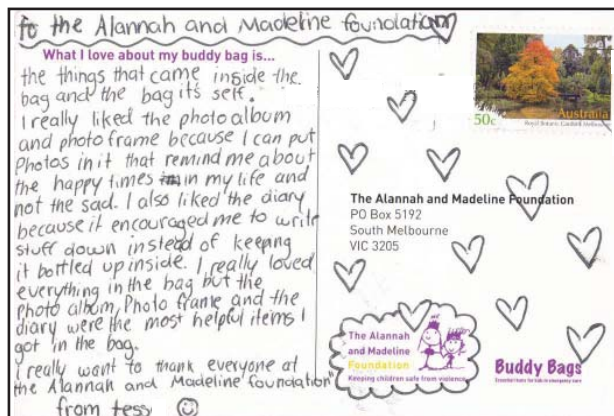
By the end of 2009 The Alannah and Madeline Foundation will have delivered a total of 8,500 Buddy Bags to more than 100 Australian foster care agencies and domestic violence refuges.

**To continue the Program, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation needs your help to deliver Buddy Bags to children in emergency foster homes and domestic refuges.**



To sponsor a Buddy Bag or for more information about donating, please call the Foundation on 03 9697 0666, email [kirsty.rice@amf.org.au](mailto:kirsty.rice@amf.org.au) or visit [www.amf.org.au](http://www.amf.org.au)

\* Not her real name



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The Alannah and Madeline Foundation  
Keeping children safe from violence



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