

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

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Dear Editor,

Homelessness is a reality faced by thousands of people across our nation and right here on Long Island. Last year, nearly 600,000 people were homeless in the United States, with over 80,000 in New York, and more than 3,800 people in Suffolk and Nassau Counties.

Access to shelter and food is critical for the homeless, but another key necessity is often times overlooked; basic personal care/ hygiene products. These items are vital to a person's everyday life, well-being and self-dignity, but accessing toiletries can be a tremendous hardship due to high costs and other pressing needs. Items as simple as soap or a toothbrush can help lift spirits and improve health and self-esteem of those facing homelessness.

With that in mind, I have partnered with Kehillath Shalom Synagogue for a special Valentine's Day Personal Care Product drive to support homeless women on Long Island. The 5,000 Purses Project will run through February 10th. Gently-used purses and personal care items can be dropped off at my office, located at 15 Park Circle, Suite 209, Centerport, NY 11721. Some ideas for supplies include: shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, soap/body wash, combs/brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, razors, shaving cream, lotion, lip balm, female personal care items, q-tips, band-aids, phone cards, antacids, hairs ties, nail files, mirrors, tissues, whistles, gloves and socks.

Please join me in this effort. The packages will be distributed at The Interfaith Nutrition Network (The INN) and an abused women's shelter in Suffolk County on February 14th. For more information, call my office at 631-854-4500.

Best Regards,

William R. Spencer, M.D.
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District