



Unconditional Love & Durable Luggage for youth aging out of foster care.

est. June 2021



1999... Amanda was adopted by L&L Founders, Jim & Sarah Otis. Amanda arrived with her belongings in **two black garbage bags**. **WE KNEW RIGHT THEN WE HAD TO DO BETTER...**



Dreams, conversations, and deep listening led to a focus of young people aging out of foster care... some of the most vulnerable youth **who need not only luggage, but love.**

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

♥ LOVE... in many forms! ♥

- Each participant receives a piece of **New Luggage**... never used.
- **6-8 warm meals** supported by volunteers and shared in community. (We eat together!)
- **Pantry resources** for items that can't be bought with SNAP benefits.
- **Gift cards** for engaged participants; supports their own independence to purchase food and other basic needs.
- **A safe gathering place** to build lasting relationships
- A **faith-based approach** that seeks to promote God's unconditional love.
- A gifted **Bible & Food Pantry Bags** from community faith partners.
- **Flexibility** to disengage and reengage with the program up to age 25. (The door is always open!)
- Providing **individualized needs and skills-based referrals** to other community resources.

THE NEED IS CLEAR...



930 youth in care/custody of LCCS (130 more than this time last year)



45% in kinship care
55% in foster homes or other placements

"Increase in the # of extreme cases-- the complexity of cases (sibling groups, poverty, multiple issues within families, opioid addiction still at a high level, domestic violence) is leading to more kids leaving families for LCCS custody. This is despite higher levels of prevention work on our part. Post-pandemic trauma is really becoming a 'thing.'

-K Milliken, LCCS Community Communications

loveandluggage.org

In June 2021, the 1st graduation class came to receive NEW luggage and basic needs items from the 'Independent Pantry.' In partnership with Adopt America Network, Lucas County Children Services, and generous community partners, L&L has served over **40 youth**.

Each June brings the joy of a new group of youth who receive LOVE & LUGGAGE.



YOU CAN HELP

- **Funding** to support program components: dinners, gcards, pantry, emergency fund.
- **Networks of Resources:** Case management for participants who do not qualify for other services-- a sustainable partnership
- **Storytelling & Advocacy** Opportunities
- Crowd Sourcing & **Community Collections** for pantry items
- A permanent home for L&L --> Be a part of our Strategic plan for 2025!



SCAN FOR MORE

