



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NSYMCA Celebrates the Season by Creating  
“Blessing Bags” for Those Experiencing Homelessness**

**Northbrook, IL: December 2021** – This year’s North Suburban YMCA Holiday Giveback event held on December 4 drew over 175 volunteers of all ages to help create “Blessing Bags” for people experiencing homelessness. The Blessing Bags, filled with essential items such as baby wipes, socks, deodorant and other toiletries that were donated by NSYMCA members and board members as well as local businesses and the community at large, will be distributed through Project I Am, a Chicago-based 501c charity.

“The spirit of giving was evident on Saturday, and we were thrilled to exceed our goal thanks to the generosity of all who donated and helped pack,” commented Karen Brownlee, chair of North Suburban YMCA’s Social Responsibility Committee. “We planned to make 200 bags but were able to pack over 250.”

The Y’s Social Responsibility Committee hosted the Blessing Bag Packing day, which also included holiday card making and a special visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Many of the volunteers were intergenerational families who came together to help those in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Through its generous donations, sponsors of the event, Northwestern Medicine, Illinois Bone and Joint, and UBS Northbrook made it possible that the Y exceeded its goal.

**About the [North Suburban YMCA](http://www.nsymca.org)**

The North Suburban YMCA services Northbrook and 14 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help its residents become healthier, more connected, and confident, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The NSYMCA focuses on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility and is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at [NSYMCA.org](http://NSYMCA.org).



*Caption: Tina Goldman (left) and her grandson Ben Williams (right) help create “Blessing Bags” for the homeless, along with 40-year YMCA member Cynthia Nadig (center). Ben invited his grandmother to join him as he completed service hours for his scholarship at Harper College.*



*Photo Caption: Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the Y's Blessing Bag packing event to thank the volunteers and spread holiday cheer.*



*Photo Caption: Ruby Martinez (right), a masseuse at the Y, brought members of her daughter's FC Hawks Soccer Team to volunteer at the Blessing Bags Packing Event.*

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