

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

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Staff Council

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Staff Council Sock & Blanket Drive to Help Houston's Homeless and Adults in Need of Protection**

The University of Houston Staff Council is sponsoring their annual Sock and Blanket Drive for the benefit of the Star of Hope and the Harris County Protective Services Guardianship Program. The Staff Council is collecting baby formula and diapers, new socks and underwear and new and clean blankets, towels, sheets, coats, sweaters, warm clothing, children's and baby's clothing, professional attire, unopened over-the-counter medications, unopened toiletries, etc., at 30 collection sites around the campus (see attached list). The Drive will run from October 28 through November 15. This is a good opportunity for people to clean out their closets or purchase new items for those in need of assistance.

The Star of Hope has been serving Houston's homeless since 1907. They provide food, clothing, shelter, and other services to the homeless through emergency shelters, transitional living centers, and out-on-the-street distributions (their Love-in-Action Van). They also help to transition the homeless into apartments and housing. The face of homelessness is changing. Approximately 39% of the people they serve are women, 31% are men, and 30% are children. There is a special need for baby formula and diapers (especially sizes 5 & 6), deodorant, bath towels and razors. They are also seeking new and gently used, clean clothing in all sizes, linens, new underwear and toiletries.

The Harris County Protective Services Guardianship Program serves as legal guardians for over 1,400 adults, ages 18 to 100+. Some clients are physically or mentally disabled; others are simply elderly. They may not have family or friends, or they may have come from an abusive or neglectful situation. They live in personal care homes, assisted living centers, group homes, state hospitals and psychiatric hospitals, and individual family homes. Most do not have family or friends who will visit them or give them gifts. The Guardianship Program is seeking new socks, underwear (all sizes from XS to XXXL), casual clothing (such as sweat suits), nightwear (such as pajamas and slippers), cologne/perfume, hairstyling products, adult diapers, blankets/comforters, etc. The Guardianship Program makes up gift baskets for their clients from the donated items.

For more information, contact Rebecca Szwarc at X36030 or Mary Helen Meza at 3-3135; e-mail [rszwarc@uh.edu](mailto:rszwarc@uh.edu) or [mmeza@uh.edu](mailto:mmeza@uh.edu), or go to the Staff Council website, [www.uh.edu/sc/sock-blanket-drive](http://www.uh.edu/sc/sock-blanket-drive), which includes a complete list of needed items and the drop-off sites.

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## About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best colleges for undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city, UH serves more than 39,500 students in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region in the country.

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