

2018 Illinois FCCLA Community Service Project



About our Partner

This year the State Officer team chose the Illinois Department of Child & Family Services (DCFS) as their community service project. DCFS has the primary responsibility of protecting children through the investigation of suspected abuse or neglect by their parents and other care givers in a position of trust or authority over the child. Children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities from across the state are taken into temporary care when it is not safe for them to remain at home. DCFS is also the licensing agency for foster care families. Participating families and individuals go through an intensive training, home study and background checks to be licensed to care through the foster system. Although the foster families are given minimal compensation, there are many needs that either go unmet or the foster parents or case workers provide out of their own pockets. Illinois DCFS has 4 regions in the state: Northern, Cook County, Central & Southern. There are around 65 offices across the state.

Our projects at State Leadership Conference will include:

Birthday Buddies – Many of the children in foster care, particularly the ones in residential treatment, don't really have anyone who remembers their birthday. Caseworkers will usually spend their own money to buy them a card or a gift or go to Walmart to get them cupcakes. We could take donations of birthday cards for all ages and gift cards to Walmart.

A Helping Hand for those Helping – Getting licensed to be a foster care home has so many requirements and is not cheap! We could help by collecting child safety locks for cabinets, smoke and CO2 detectors, etc.

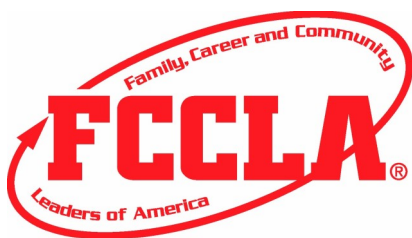
Ways to Participate at State Conference

Bring a Chapter Cash Donation - cash donations will be used to purchase smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, child safety locks and gift cards

Bring Gift Cards - Walmart or Target gift cards in the amount of \$10 or \$15 each

Birthday Card Craft Room - Stop in Room B6E on the lower level of the Convention Center any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to create a birthday card for a child. All supplies will be provided. Our goal is to make at least 250 cards on that day!

Cash and gift card donations can either be presented at Conference Registration at the PAL Hotel on Thursday night or in Conference Headquarters—Convention Center B4 anytime on Friday.



**Thank you for
supporting this
project!!**