

## Dear Department Chairs and Faculty,

Our names are Alex Plezia and Rachel Yang, and we are M2 students involved in SHOC (Stritch Homeless Outreach Coalition) working together to collect donations for hygiene kits and winter gear for community members experiencing homelessness. For those who may not be familiar with SHOC and its initiatives, we are a newly-formed student organization dedicated to supporting our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, through partnerships with local community organizations, such as Housing Forward, Chicago Street Medicine, and The Night Ministry.

One of our current initiatives is supporting The Night Ministry during their CTA Blue Line outreach nights. On these evenings, we support the staff of The Night Ministry in providing meals, hygiene products, supplies, and medical care to unhoused individuals who visit us at the Forest Park Blue Line stop. The Night Ministry also provides social work support and harm reduction assistance. This summer, through the efforts of students in the CCGH (Center for Community and Global Health) honors program, we were able to collect enough supplies for 100 hygiene kits to distribute during street outreach. As the weather grows colder, help is needed now more than ever.

We are writing to ask for your support so that we can continue these services and more. We are currently holding a drive to collect the following items: hand sanitizer, individual tissue packs, wet wipes, socks, chapstick, bandaids, and gently used winter clothing such as sweaters, coats, and fleeces. We would also greatly appreciate support in the form of financial contributions to our Go Fund Me page, 100% of which will go towards supplies and meals for our community members. If you are interested in purchasing personal care items to donate, they can be placed in a collection box outside of the CCGH Office in the Stritch School of Medicine, or contact Alex Plezia (aplezia@luc.edu) and she will be happy to arrange a convenient pick-up option for you. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please visit our Donorbox link at: <https://donorbox.org/loyola-street-medicine>.

In other news, Loyola University Chicago's Street Medicine program was recently approved as the fourth chapter of Chicago Street Medicine (CSM). In addition to hygiene kits, we are also collecting tents, blankets, and sleeping bags for our new CSM "Warm for Winter" drive that is separate from the hygiene kits drive. With low nighttime temperatures during the winter months, sleeping bags and any warm supplies are an asset to the homeless. Donations of supplies can be placed in the same hygiene kits collection box outside of the CCGH Office in the Stritch School of Medicine. If it is more convenient to arrange a pick-up option for you, you can contact either Alex Plezia (aplezia@luc.edu) or Rachel Yang (ryang2@luc.edu). We have a separate Go Fund Me page for our Warm for Winter drive, 100% of monetary donations will go towards purchasing winter supplies for our community members. To make a monetary donation, please visit the CHHRGE GoFund Me link: <https://gofund.me/78c8b753>.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would spread the word to your fellow faculty and staff members, so that we can maximize our impact in supporting our fellow neighbors.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping to support our local homeless population!

Sincerely,  
*Rachel and Alex*  
Stritch Homelessness Outreach Coalition Board

