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## Lee's Summit woman collects 'items of dignity' for shelters

BY TORIANO PORTER

tporter@lsjournal.com   November 22, 2015

The goal for the third annual Giving Hope and Help Feminine Hygiene Product Drive is simple: To nearly triple its collection from last year.

After collecting more than 5,000 sanitary napkins and tampons in its first year, and more than 11,000 last year, Giving Hope and Help founder Jessica McClellan is ambitious for the latest drive, set for 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Promise Weeding and Event Space in Kansas City.

The drive will benefit domestic violence survivors that reside at four local domestic violence shelters, including Hope House's locations in Independence and Lee's Summit, and Safe Home and Newhouse shelters.

"We want to collect 30,000 products," McClellan, a Lee's Summit resident, said. "Sanitary napkins and tampons are the two least donated items to places of refuge across the country and globe. We call these 'items of dignity.'"

Dan Ryan, vice president for development at Safe Home, said the importance of the drive and the community's involvement is even greater than one might think.

"Many of our clients come in with nothing, and have been the victim of financial abuse as well as physical abuse," he said. "Even if they do happen to have some resources, they are often not in a position to drop by the local store to pick up necessities."

Hope House CEO MaryAnne Metheny said the drive helps supply up to six-months' worth of feminine hygiene needs for the organization.

"Community involvement is crucial," Metheny said. "If we didn't have the support during the drive, we'd have to use other funds to support these basic needs rather than providing a therapeutic service to a domestic violence survivor."

Giving Hope and Help recently launched its first feminine hygiene drive in Texas.

The Nov. 7 event collected 9,660 sanitary napkins and tampons and more than 100 toiletries to benefit domestic violence survivors that reside at Genesis Women's Shelter and Support in Dallas.

That launch has McClellan thinking big.

"We want to take this international," she said.

The organization has three signature events that McClellan has seen grow since she started the non-profit in 2013 to honor her 45th birthday.

Giving Hope and Help also sponsors a LOVE Bags 4 Cancer giveaway drive for hospitalized cancer patients and Education Is Your Passport scholarship program that awards laptop computers, bedding and mentoring to kindergarten through adult college students.

A healthcare IT training facilitator, McClellan travels the country to train physicians and healthcare providers on software. She has over 20 years of sales, marketing and management, including 10 years of pharmaceutical and medical sales experience.

And though she thoroughly enjoys her trade, it is Giving Hope and Help that is helping reshape the 47-year-old's perspective on giving back.

"God moved me," McClellan said of her philanthropic endeavors.

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**Jessica Mccallop-Mcclellan** · Baker University

FEELING DRIVEN TO KEEP ON GIVING! Hot off the Press! Giving Hope & Help is featured in the newspaper! Our organization is MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Join us to reach our collection goal of 30,000 sanitary napkins and tampons. These two items of dignity are so needed in domestic violence shelters! THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE WORLD CHANGER VOLUNTEERS & DIFFERENCE MAKER DONORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! KANSAS CITY, WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER! DONATE TODAY at [www.givinghopeandhelp.org](http://www.givinghopeandhelp.org) [#givehopehelpkc](https://twitter.com/givehopehelpkc) [#givehopehelp4dv](https://twitter.com/givehopehelp4dv) [#texasgivehopehelp](https://twitter.com/texasgivehopehelp) [#nofemalewithout](https://twitter.com/nofemalewithout)

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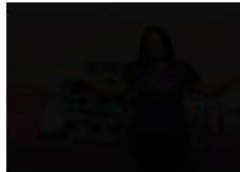
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Giving Hope and Help founder Jessica McClellan's latest feminine hygiene product drive is from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Promise Weeding and Event Space in Kansas City.

PICASA — Photo provided



### HOW TO HELP

There are several drop-off locations for the drive including at the Lee's Summit Journal.

Volunteers will also collect sanitary napkins and tampons from 10 a.m to 3 p.m Dec. 5 at Hy-Vee #2, 310 SW Ward in Lee's Summit.

For more information on the drive or to find a drop-off location, visit the organization's website at [www.givinghopeandhelp.org](http://www.givinghopeandhelp.org).

Financial donations will be accepted at the drive or can be made securely on the organization's website or mailed to PO Box 2446 Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063.

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