# **Relief After Violent Encounter – Ionia/Montcalm, Inc. (RAVE-I/M, Inc.)**

## CHILDREN’S PROGRAM DONATION NEEDS

Coming to the shelter is scary for an adult; just imagine what it is like for a child. RAVE I/M’s Children’s Program offers a variety of ways to help children feel safe and welcomed in shelter, including Quiet Boxes, Welcome Bags, and a weekly support group called Kid’s Club. Below is a list of needs that keeps our Children’s Program up and running so that RAVE I/M can continue to support and empower the children in our shelter. If you have questions about items you’d like to donate, please reach out to our Youth Advocate at 616-527-3351 x228.

* **Coloring books**
* **Coloring supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils)**
* **Bags (gift bags, pouches, cosmetic bags, small backpacks or purses)**
* **Paint (watercolor, paint sticks, tempera)**
* **Paint supplies (canvases and paintbrushes)**
* **Playdough**
* **Fidget toys**
* **Card games**
* **Party favors**
* **School supplies**
* **Yoyos**
* **Slinky**
* **Construction paper**
* **Stickers**
* **Notepads**
* **Small stuffed animals**
* **Journals**
* **Small toys and trinkets**

**Quiet boxes:**

It can be difficult for moms in crisis to be able to occupy their children while trying to get things organized for their future. The shelter provides “quiet boxes” to moms who need to get things accomplished, or simply take a break. These boxes are full of little, age appropriate activities that children can play with during these times. Maintaining these boxes can be expensive and need to be resupplied every couple of weeks. Examples of what goes into these are: **craft and coloring supplies, playdough, small games or toys.**

**Welcome Bags:**

These bags are provided to any child coming into the shelter to welcome them. We try to give kids something that can help them feel safe and adjust to their new environment. One of the biggest needs for this project is bags to put the items in. The types of bags we are looking for are: **gift bags, pouches, small backpacks or purses, cosmetic bags, or any other small type of bag.** The most important items to go into these bags are: **coloring books and coloring supplies, fidget toys, school supplies, small stuffed animals, and journals.**

**Kid’s Club:**

Kid’s Club is a weekly support group for children of the shelter. This is an opportunity for children to get to know one another, learn new things, and have fun!

*Snacks*: Each week we offer a small snack for kids to enjoy while we check in and get ready for our activity. Examples of these snacks include: **juice boxes, crackers and cheese, fruit, granola bars, cheese sticks, trail mix, popcorn, etc.**

*Supplies*: Supplies are limited, and we are always in need of things to make activities possible. Things that are always needed are**: paper, scissors, coloring supplies (markers, crayons, colored pencils), stickers, large project paper, construction paper, old magazines, pipe cleaners, or anything that you feel would be fun!**

*If you have any questions about RAVE I/M’s Children’s Program or our needs, please reach out to our Youth Advocate at 616-527-3351 x228.*