



MEDIA KIT

THE BLANKET BOX PROJECT

A BLANKIES 4 MY BUDDIES FOUNDATION PROGRAM



Award-winning social impact project created by teen changemaker & Co-founder of Blankies 4 My Buddies, C.J. Matthews

Making Change . . . one blanket at a time!

ABOUT THE PROJECT

THE BLANKET BOX PROJECT is a social impact initiative empowering youth as change agents created by C.J. Matthews, founder of The Blankies 4 My Buddies Foundation when he emerged as the youngest member of the inaugural class of Prudential Emerging Visionaries in 2022. This mission, which was inspired by CJ's childhood experience of finding solace in giving blankets after his mother's pregnancy loss, aims to foster empathy and service, especially among kids and teens around the country.

C.J.'s commitment to positive change unfolds through The Blanket Box Project's three elements:



Adopt-A-Blanket Box

Allows groups to build and install a blanket box chest in hospitals or a B4MB-approved place of their choice. The family, group or organization becomes responsible to sustain the box and keep it filled.



"Making Change" Blanket Workshops

Teaches kids about service and involves crafting no-sew blankets to donate to a needy target group (i.e., seniors, sick children, homeless veterans, etc). Workshops are also held as therapy for vulnerable groups like families in shelters, short-term hospital housing, grieving groups, etc.)



#GiveLikeCJ kits

These do-it-yourself blanket kits include materials to make a no-sew blanket. They are distributed to schools, hospitals, and organizations, encouraging families and groups to craft together during challenging times as using your hands is proven to be therapeutic.



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Fosters Empathy and Compassion:** Engaging in crafting and donating blankets helps participants develop a deeper understanding and concern for those in need.
- **Encourages Community Service:** The project motivates kids and teens to participate in service activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and community involvement.
- **Provides Therapeutic Value:** The crafting process and the act of giving can offer emotional and psychological benefits, particularly for those going through difficult times.
- **Supports Vulnerable Populations:** Blankets are donated to a wide range of needy groups, including seniors, sick children, and homeless veterans, providing them comfort and warmth.
- **Strengthens Family and Group Bonds:** Activities like making no-sew blankets together can strengthen bonds within families and groups, offering a shared, meaningful experience, including improving intergenerational relationships.
- **Builds Teamwork and Collaboration:** Group activities, such as workshops and the Adopt-A-Blanket Box program, enhance teamwork and collaboration skills.
- **Promotes Skill Development:** Participants learn valuable skills such as crafting, project planning, and organizing community service efforts, integrating elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education
- **Encourages Sustained Engagement:** Programs like Adopt-A-Blanket Box involve ongoing commitment, promoting long-term engagement and responsibility in community service.
- **Raises Awareness:** By participating in the project, individuals become more aware of social issues and the needs of various vulnerable groups.
- **Creates Positive Social Impact:** The cumulative efforts of all participants contribute to a larger, positive impact on society, helping to build a more caring and supportive community.



Making Change workshops have been held at Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities, Eagles Landing Christian Academy, Henry County Public Libraries, Shaquille O'Neal's Boys & Girls Club, and Marriott Downtown Atlanta, to name a few. Top right: Girl Scout Troop 4290 in Richmond, Virginia, made 34 blankets to donate to Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.



WHO WE SERVE

- Hospitalized Children
- Children with Life-threatening Illnesses
- Children with Cancer
- Bereaved Children /Families
- Families Facing Crisis
- Mothers /Families who have Experienced Infant /Pregnancy Loss
- Siblings Coping with Loss
- Children Who Have Lost Parents
- Children and Teens Who Have Lost Friends
- Veterans /Homeless Veterans
- Deployed Soldiers
- Families of Deployed Soldiers
- Seniors Living Alone
- Seniors in Nursing Homes



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Chris "C.J." Matthews was deeply affected by the loss of his unborn sibling at the age of five, which inspired the creation of Blankies 4 My Buddies, a 501 (c) organization dedicated to bringing small tokens of solace through items such as cozy blankets, socks, books, food and more to children facing adversity, including grief, illness, and homelessness. What began as a personal response to his own grief has since grown into a global initiative, positively impacting numerous young lives.

Today, the foundation is spearheaded by C.J. alongside his younger brother Kollin, who, at eight years old, is a passionate co-leader in their mission. Together, the Matthews brothers are not just local heroes; they are Giving Tuesday Spark leaders, part of a global movement inspiring generosity and kindness.

Through Blankies 4 My Buddies, C.J. and Kollin are proving that even the youngest among us can be powerful agents of change, spreading comfort and hope to children around the world.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- **Book a Workshop**
- **Sponsor a Workshop**
- **Volunteer**
- **Adopt a Blanket Box**
- **Purchase Blanket Kits**
- **Make a Donation**
- **Buy a Copy of our Book**
- **Partner With Us**



THANK YOU

Your support of The Blanket Box Project means the world to us. Together, we are spreading warmth, comfort, and hope to children who need it most. Every blanket made, box filled, and heart touched is a testament to the power of community and kindness. Thank you for joining us in making a difference—one blanket at a time.

With gratitude,
C.J., Kollin, and the Blankies 4 My Buddies Team

IMPACT

The Blanket Box Project is designed for children and families facing difficult situations like illness, loss, homelessness, or other challenges. It provides comfort through cozy blankets and essential items, offering warmth and security during tough times.

The Blanket Box Project is important because, In times of distress, a simple gesture of kindness can make a profound difference. Crafting something with your hands is therapeutic and deeply meaningful, especially when it's intended for someone else. Research shows that giving can be just as beneficial to the giver as it is to the receiver, fostering a sense of purpose, connection, and well-being. The Blanket Box Project brings communities together to support those in need, creating a ripple effect of empathy, compassion, and hope.

Blankies 4 My Buddies has donated over 5,000 #GiveLikeCJ blanket kits, 1,000 youth have participated in Making Change Workshops, and 1,500 blankets have been provided to NICU patients via the hospital blanket boxes.



BLANKET BOX PROJECT PRESS

[Nick News Holiday Special - Dec 2023](#)

[Fox 5 Atlanta - Aug 2022](#)

[Georgia's Amazing Kids - July 2023 2023](#)

CONTACT US

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