

## Jovani's Way... Never Leave Anyone Behind Inc. Sensory Bags for First Responders

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our mission and your interest in helping to create a more inclusive and sensory friendly commUNITY for children and individuals with special needs in our area! Being a neurodiverse individual myself, it's allowed me to think outside-the-box and gain a different perspective on how to spread awareness and promote inclusivity. Creating ways to break through barriers of stereotyping, stigma and the lack of understanding that leads to exclusion and social isolation among children and individuals with special needs. Each and every day, I constantly step out of my comfort zone and strive towards creating more inclusive communities; giving every individual the opportunity to experience an "everyday life" and become an active member of society.

Unfortunately, due to the recent effects and impact caused by COVID-19 pandemic along with the strain and difficulties of the quarantine it's created both new challenges and exacerbated pre-existing ones impacting people worldwide. As a result, humanity as a whole experienced a form of seclusion and isolation in one way or another! Could you imagine having that feeling of exclusion being a part of your everyday life? For a child or individual with special needs, living in a non-inclusive world... EXCLUSION IS THEIR REALITY!

This project will help provide Sensory Bags, information/ educational material, including training for first responder's to spread awareness, educate and promote inclusivity of children and individuals with special needs. Not all disabilities are visible! This in depth training will discuss mental health issues and disabilities such as Autism, PTSD, Anxiety, Aspergers, SPD, Dementia and how it affects society today. We will also discuss what sensory overload is, how to identify them and the triggers that may cause them. By implementing this program, we can provide our first responders with a great resource and valuable tool while responding to an emergency situation.

We are looking to partner with individuals like yourself, along with participation from local businesses, professional buildings, hospitals and any public attractions to bring us one step closer to creating inclusive communities all across the nation! For some individuals, just the thought of living an "everyday life" can be overwhelming. Everything from lights and sounds to crowded spaces can cause difficulty for an individual while trying to acclimate within their surroundings. With proper guidance, tools and training, this program can change the world we live in, one community at a time! Not only for the individual and their families but for the men and women in our area who help protect and serve our community.

### How we plan on sustaining this program...

Since this nonprofit organization Jovani's Way... Never Leave Anyone Behind Inc. was founded through participation in the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Reflections Program, schools are reaching out to participate in our mission to bring Sensory Bags to First Responders. Possibility of school assemblies with a culmination of inspiration and working toward a cause! National First Responders Day is on October 28, 2022 and we will be planning to launch our very first school fundraiser in both Tunkhannock and Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. If you know of any Organizations, Schools, businesses or individuals that would like to participate, help our mission or would like to make a donation, please pass along the information. I would be more than happy to provide any additional information if needed.

With sincere gratitude,