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Coats for Kids Program



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For Immediate Release

WORCESTER, Massachusetts

Did you Know?.. Attendance is one of the number one reasons for success in school? ...Children who do not have winter coats often stay home from school on cold winter days?...Self Esteem is priceless...

History of Coats for Kids

The Coats for Kids (CFK) program provides children who attend the Worcester Public Schools (WPS) with the necessary winter outerwear to enable them to come to school each day ready to learn. CFK was started in 1988 by Paula Harrity, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for the WPS. CFK started in the Worcester Public Schools and grew to assist other organizations, including the Head Start Program, Worcester area shelters and the Worcester Community Partnerships for Children. Due to the growing demands and workload of this program WPS partnered with The Junior League of Worcester (JLW) in 1999. **** The JLW is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable*

Over time the need for assistance has grown and **together WPS and JLW provided over 1400 children with new coats, hats and mittens in 2006.** These numbers are expected to grow as it continues to be a challenging economy for many of our families. These families greatly benefit from the multitudes of caring people in the Worcester community. We wish we could pass along all the letters and phone calls from so many teachers, principals, and families who were so grateful for the help that they received. So many commented not only on the wonderful quality of the items they received, but also the positive impact on the students' self esteem.

Coats for Kids, Tugging at Your Heart...

On a snowy day in November, two school-age girls were given new coats, hats and mittens from our CFK Project. On their way home, they saw an elderly woman struggling to shovel her driveway. The girls asked if she needed some help and the woman gladly accepted. They were so busy that the older woman forgot to ask their names. She wanted to thank them personally so she called the school the following day and described the girls. Because of her description of one girl's floppy pink hat, they were able to identify them. The Principal of the school then called the girls down to the office to ask them if and why they did it. They replied that they had just received their new hats and coats that day, and since someone they didn't know did something nice for them, they wanted to do something nice for someone else.

This is just one of the many great stories we hear each year and make it all worthwhile!!

JLW collects donations from many individuals and corporate sponsors to fund this program. Community partners this year include **TJX Corporation and B J's Wholesale Club** .

How You Can Help at World Smile Day

The Worcester Public Schools and the Junior League of Worcester are proud to announce the kick off of the **2006 Coat for Kids program with a New Coat Drive on October 6, 2006 during World Smile Day in Worcester located on the City Hall Plaza at 12:00 noon.**

This will be a drop off point for ***New Coats, Hats and Mittens/Gloves for Boys and Girls sizes 5-18.*** Unfortunately, we are unable to accept scarves. **All donated items must be new with tags.** The average price to outfit a child is \$40.00 and if you are unable to purchase a coat for this event and would still like to participate, we will also gratefully accept a donation made payable to the Junior League of Worcester. ***A tax deductible receipt will be available with your donation at our booth.

Please consider sponsoring a child or making a monetary donation. We are asking for your support of this worthwhile program again this year

Put a Smile on a Child's Face this winter...One Donation at a time...

The spirit of giving is contagious and your contribution helped make this possible. We look forward to seeing you at our booth.