South Bend Chapter Basic Needs

Self Esteem Building

Christ Child Clothing Center Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Annually, 1-2 times weekly, from August to December, typically on every Wednesday morning and several evenings and Sunday afternoons.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $228,800 for clothing; $55,000 for shoes

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $1200 plus gently used clothing of undetermined value

**Partnerships**

30+ Social Service organizations, churches, and health clinics plus all elementary public and Catholic schools in St. Joseph County. School counselors and employees of social service agencies serve as referral agents. They complete the CCS referral form which list children’s names and identification details.

Payless Shoes before they closed. Presently Penny’s, Famous Footwear, and Sears - gave great discounts on athletic shoes.

Donation of gently used clothing come from schools, churches, individuals

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 3352

Age range of clients served: birth to 12

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working) 80 to 100

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Volunteers purchase, sort, de-tag and

repackage clothing and shoes; meet with clients and determine children’s sizes and needs; assemble

and distribute items; keep inventories. In the Used Clothing Department, Members sort clothing by sex and size and make sure the clothing is in good repair and clean. Several members take soiled clothing home to wash it.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: Providing basic needs, allowing children to fit in with their peers

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? New clothing (including underwear and socks) , shoes, coats, hats, gloves. Gently used clothing is also given as available.

Clothing items are purchased either locally or online by volunteer buyers. Each buyer is responsible for one or two areas of clothing, i.e., socks, toddlers, coats, etc. They are then taken to the Clothing Center for other volunteers to process: de-tag, re-package if applicable (underwear and socks are distributed in bundles of 7; coats are matched with complementary hats and gloves or mittens) and put in totes for storage or on shelves or racks for distribution.

On Distribution Days, clients are met by volunteers who ensure they have needed documentation, then helped to determine correct sizes for their children. Another volunteer types their information into the database and sends sizes to the Clothing Departments so their items can be gathered. Volunteers in each department (Coats, Shoes, New Clothing, Used Clothing) receive printouts and prepare the orders. When clients come to each room, they are encouraged to go through the bags to see if everything looks correct, and to make exchanges if necessary. (They may also come back another day to make exchanges if something doesn’t fit once they get home.)

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