Akron Chapter Providing Basic Needs

Clothing Center Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Work begins in July when the bulk of the clothing is ordered. Orders for school clothing for area students begin coming in by mid-August and clothing orders are filled through April. Emergency orders are filled until the end of May each year. Work is done weekly or bi-weekly as needed.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $125,000

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $7.000

**Partnerships**

1)St. Hilary Knight of Columbus, 2)Akron Public School as well as Charter and Catholic School Principals, counselors and area social workers, and 3)Project Rise

These partners: 1) Provide coats, 2) identify students in need of school uniforms and place clothing orders, 3) this sub committee of Akron Public Schools works with homeless students – they make sure all stakeholders are aware of student needs

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 2050

Age range of clients served: preschool to high school

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 17 planning; 30 working

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? PLANNING 1 Buyer responsible for purchasing needed inventory, 2 Clothing Center Chairs responsible for making contact with counselors, principals, and social workers as well as printing orders, 8 member pulling team that pulls needed items to fill orders from inventory, 3 members responsible for delivery teams, 1 member responsible for data collection, 1 member responsible for keeping the on- line order system up and running, 1 member responsible for attending Project Rise meetings. WORKING Each week 20 – 30 members are involved in packing orders and delivering them to the school or shelter as well as restocking shelves.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: to provide new uniforms, under and outer wear to school age children in need in the Akron area.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? a full order would include 5 pairs of underpants, 3 undershirts/camis, 6 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of uniform pants, 3 uniform shirts, a coat, hat, gloves/mittens, a toothbrush, full size toothpaste, and deodorant if age appropriate.

The Clothing Center Program begins its work in July, using the results of the spring inventory to place an order for all the items needed to start the school year. All the counselors, principals and social workers are made aware of the ordering process and program guidelines by mid-August. The first shipment also arrives around that time. The all-volunteer members help inventory the incoming merchandise, stock shelves, put away back stock, hang coats etc. Orders come through the on-line order form. The orders are printed, items ordered are pulled from the inventory, packed, and delivered to the school or shelter placing the order. Each full clothing order costs approximately $72.00 for students wearing children’s sizes and $80.00 for students wearing adult sizes.

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