Toledo Chapter Basic needs

Clothe-a-Child Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Buying occurs in the Spring, after inventory has been determined. Delivery of orders is in September, and unpacking and coordinating the coats, hats and gloves occurs after delivery. Knitting, looming and crocheting of hats is on-going all year and coordinated through the C-A-C Buyers.

The first three Saturdays in November are the designated days for Clothe-A-Child distributions.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $25,000 Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $500

**Partnerships**

32 agencies, schools, health facilities and parishes. Chair contacts and “vets” agencies to assess client needs.

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? All partner agencies are given CAC generated vouchers, to be given to eligible clients for admittance to our distribution Saturdays.

The Mercy Professional building is the distribution center that receives, stores and houses the CAC inventory.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 649 coats were distributed

Age range of clients served: infant to 13

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 188

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? 55 Volunteers knit, loom and crochet hats and mittens; packing, sizing, hanging inventoried coats, color coordinating hats and gloves to coats.

133 Volunteers unpack new merchandise, knit hats and mittens, inventory the coats in the distribution center, “fill vouchers” by fitting each child in their new coat and distribute a new book to each child.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: Serving the underserved children in the community with a new coat, hat, gloves and a book. A central city location facilitates distribution to clients. Books have been added to this distribution to reinforce the importance of putting a book in a child’s hand and literacy.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? New coats, hats, gloves/mittens, book and CCS of Toledo bookmark.

Since 1999, underserved children in our community have received new coats, hats gloves. The addition of books has morphed this program into our “Warm Coats, Cool Books” days. Our Literacy development chairs order age appropriate books for our distribution days.

Each Fall they coordinate and vet each agency to assess needs, predict vouchers needed and create referrals for the vouchers which are printed and delivered to each agency for distribution to their clients in need of coats. The voucher system tracks numbers of coats distributed by agency, size and gender as well as vouchers that are generated, the day of distribution, as a family’s additional needs are discovered.

Buyers begin the purchasing process in Spring and assess potential needs, review past distribution, inventory and purchase the coats. After delivery the merchandise is unpacked, coats are then sized. Additionally, many Members and friends knit, loom or crochet hats and mittens. At the end of the distribution Saturdays, remaining coats are inventoried, and this information is utilized if they discover any need during the year.

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