Northern Michigan Chapter Basic Needs

 Family Empowerment

 Education in General

Shower of Love Program Self Esteem Building

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

June through October

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $30,000 (Petoskey, Harbor Springs)

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): $500

**Partnerships**

Public Schools of Petoskey, Harbor Springs Public Schools, Northwest Community Action Agency, Petoskey Concord, DHHS; In Alanson - Project Rudolph, Community Mental Health, Schools

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? they contact families receiving free and/or reduced lunches or those having hardships to get permission for Christ Child to contact them for Shower of Love/back to school clothing.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 257 (Petosky, Harbor Springs), 326 (Alanson)

Age range of clients served: children

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 24

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? they receive from the project chair the family’s specific needs for back to school clothing, they shop, wrap and deliver to the family in need

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: to have children start the school year with clothing and shoes that fit and have the needed school supplies to begin the year

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? clothing, shoes and school supplies

The name “Shower of Love” was derived from new mother/infants who are “showered” with gifts either before or after the birth of the infant. In this case, CCS members are “showering” school age children with new clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, and sweatshirts or any other clothing item that the parent identifies that the child needs prior to entering school in the fall. For several years, our chapter has fulfilled individualized clothing requests for kids (like size 13 sneakers!)

 In May the project chair contacts the local school districts and asks them to reach out to families that need help with back to school clothing. The schools gather that information and provide it to the project chair no later than June 30th. At that point the project chair contacts each family verifying the sizing is still accurate and to find out if they have received a school supply list from their child’s teacher. Once that is complete the project chair assigns a shopper to the family. The shopper takes the information, shops for the specific needs, wraps the items and then makes arrangements to deliver to the family.

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