

December 4, 2015

Rocky Mountain Foot and Ankle

I am a volunteer at Serving Kids, and have twice now picked up bags of clothing with your card on them from the Jeffco Schools Foundation. I would anticipate that the Foundation may send a thank you form letter to you, but I wanted to thank you also. It means so much to us (about 20 volunteers) that your office would make the effort to collect this clothing for our students. You have given us some very nice coats and other clothing, and we are in such desperate need of them, especially the coats. Coats, jeans, long sleeved shirts, shoes – and of course new underwear and socks – are nearly totally off the shelves. Though Serving Kids is sponsored by the Foundation, it is not financially supported by them, so it is a real challenge to get enough donations of clothing and money to keep it all going. When we do not have shoes for a child, we give them Payless shoe certificates, so that is our biggest expense. Also we shop, at thrift stores mostly, to resupply clothing which we are out of. When schools or organizations have clothing drives, that is huge. We get a lot of our clothing from school's lost and found, and that is a great help, but it does tend to be about ¾ sweatshirts! A fair number of coats and hats and gloves – not a lot of shoes, jeans or shirts, of course. I do a huge amount of laundry of this clothing, and items not appropriate for our kids go to The Action Center or ARC. So it is great to be able to help them as well.

I thought you might be interested in how our program works. We are housed in two temps at DeVinney Elementary School. When a teacher or counselor becomes aware that a child is in need of clothing there is a form that the school employee can have the parent fill out as to what he needs. That is then faxed to the temp, and usually the child will have a large bag of the requested clothing delivered to his school within the week. We filled orders for about 1400 kids last year – we are running ahead of that this year. Over ¼ of these are for homeless children. Our volunteers are passionate about getting clothing to these students – most of them are retired teachers and school administrators.

Again, thank you for helping us help our students. They need this clothing both for warmth and comfort, and to feel good about themselves so they can concentrate on learning.

Sincerely,

  
Judy Olson