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Thank you for your interest in hosting a drive for Clothes To Kids of Fairfield County. This information sheet will help you get started with planning, but every collection event is different. Feel free to use ideas that will work best for you and your group. We are happy to help at any step along the way! When you're ready to get started, please fill out the clothing drive registration form on our website.

Hold a focused drive for our most needed items – it's the best way to help!

We need clothing and shoes for school-age children and teens in sizes youth 5/6 – adult XXL.

All items must be NEW or GENTLY USED, with no stains, rips, damage or excessive wear.

We especially appreciate donations of new items to ensure they meet our quality standards for a wardrobe that kids will feel comfortable and confident wearing to school.

The items we need the most are:

- **NEW underwear in unopened packages (boxer style for boys/men) and NEW sports bras**
- **Warm winter jackets and coats (best for drives in September – December)**
- **Sneakers and boots**
- **Sweatpants, jeans and leggings**
- **Zip-up sweatshirts/hoodies**

Places to Collect

- Back to School Night/Assemblies/School Plays/Pep Rallies/ Sporting Events
- Holiday/Birthday Parties – Ask guests to bring donations instead of gifts!
- Office Parties/Conferences/Meetings

Ways to Draw Interest

- Make your drive a competition among teams, grades, classes, clubs, scout troops or other groups.
A friendly contest is a great way to encourage everyone to get involved.
- If your drive is at a school, ask the Student Council, National Honor Society or PTA to help promote it.
Create a flyer to send home, advertise in newsletters and social media, and have students create posters and decorate collection boxes.
- Designate a time frame for collection. We've seen very successful single-day events, weekend drives, and 2-4 week drives. Make the drive last only as long as you think you can keep excitement and interest high.

Creative Ways to Collect

- If people will be driving in to drop off donations (e.g., at school or an event), consider setting up a "drive-through" staffed with volunteers who can take items straight from vehicles.
- At an event, make a new package of underwear the "ticket" for admittance.
- Obtain permission to sit outside a retail store (Target, Walmart, Old Navy, etc.) and ask shoppers to purchase and donate items from our Greatest Needs list. We can provide table materials and tax receipts.

After the drive, please contact Merryl Hackman at merrylh@clothestokidsfairfieldcounty.org to schedule delivery of the donations. We are happy to arrange a store tour and/or a short drop-off volunteer activity for members of your group so that everyone can see how their hard work will benefit children in need in our community. Thank you for your support!

DONATION GUIDELINES AND SIZES

Underwear, socks and sports bras: <u>new only</u> in original packaging. Boxer brief styles for boys/men	Youth 6 – 18/20 Adult S - XL
Sneakers and boots: new or excellent condition with clean soles and no scuffs, stains, damage or excessive wear.	Children 10 – 13.5 Youth 1-5.5 Adult 6 - 13
Coats and clothing: new or excellent condition that kids will feel comfortable and confident wearing to school. Please do not donate items that are dirty, stained, ripped, damaged or have excessive wear.	Youth 6 – 18/20 Men XS-XXL Women XS – XXL, 00 – 16/18

IDEAS FOR FOCUSED DRIVES

Back to School: new sneakers and backpacks

Footwear: Kicks for Kids; Sole Train

Underwear and sports bras: Undie 500; Drop Your Drawers; the most wUNDIEful time of the year

Winter Coats and Zip-up Sweatshirts: Give a Coat/Share the Warmth; Winter Warm-up; Coats for Kids

Online Drive: Provide the link to our Amazon Wish List so people can purchase items and ship them directly to us. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KXUMVGH378/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

ABOUT CLOTHES TO KIDS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Clothes To Kids of Fairfield County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving low-income and in-crisis children in grades K-12 in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Their mission is to provide new and quality used clothing and shoes free of charge to children in need so they can attend school with the confidence and self-esteem needed to achieve academic success.

Their unique approach is a boutique-style setting where families shop by appointment with a volunteer personal shopper to choose the clothing and shoes they like best. Every eligible child can shop twice a year to receive a week's wardrobe of seasonal clothing for school, including:

- 5 pieces of new underwear and 5 pairs of new socks
- 2 new sports bras (optional)
- 5 tops
- 4 pants/shorts/skirts
- 1 dress (optional)
- 1 pair of sneakers or boots
- 1 coat or jacket
- 1 seasonal accessory (winter hat and gloves, backpack, etc.)

To learn more about how to support the mission of Clothes To Kids of Fairfield County, visit their website at clothestokidsfairfieldcounty.org