

Warm Coats Warm Hearts Drive

Boys will collect used coats that can be given to a local shelter for those who cannot afford a coat. Included should be men's, women's and children's coats. Request that donors get coats dry cleaned before giving them to this project. A note will be included with each coat to remind the recipient of God's love and provision of care for them.

Pray

Pray that people will be willing to give generously to this project. Pray that the boys will understand the great need for coats for those people who cannot afford one. Pray that God will plant a seed of desire in the hearts of the people who will receive coats to have a relationship with Him.

Prepare

Present this project to the RAs and teach them the importance of helping people in need protect themselves against the cold. Allow boys to ask questions. Contact a local ministry or community assistance agency to establish a partnership in collecting and distributing coats.

Have boys prepare large boxes in which to collect the coats and prepare signs to promote the collection as well as the drop off locations. Also prepare promotional content to be submitted to your church newsletter or bulletin. You may also want to have boys create a commercial to share in church. Make sure you include that you need coats for all ages for this project. There is a sample letter at www.royalambassadors.org that can be used to develop your own letter to give to boys to use to involve the entire community and not just your church family.

Establish collection dates and share this with the church in all promotional materials.

Have boys create notes that can fit easily into a coat pocket. The notes should identify your church and remind the new owner that Jesus loves them and that He is the one who can truly warm the heart. Also tell boys to include in the note that each coat and recipient is prayed for and reference an appropriate Bible verse.

Have parents complete health and safety forms prior to delivering the coats to the ministry or site for distribution.

Participate

Begin all of your promotion a week or two prior to the start of the collection. The day the collections begin, set up your collection sites and have boys check the sites regularly to make sure the coats are not overflowing or blocking pathways. Have boys empty the boxes to a designated storage site as needed.

Allow the collection to continue for several weeks. When the final date arrives, gather all the coats and have the boys place the notes they made in the pockets. Then take boys with

you to deliver the coats and to visit the distribution ministry or center and learn more about it from the people who work there.

Throughout the collection, have boys pray for the people who will receive the coats, asking God to bless each life. Encourage boys to continue to do this even after the project is over for at least one month, using their own coats as prayer reminders. When they put their own coats on for warmth, remind them to “wrap in prayer” those who will be warm that day because of the gift of coats provided by your church.

Praise

Share with the boys the final number of coats collected. Remind boys that they are helping many people. Ask boys what did or did not go well with the project. How would it need to change for future consideration? Remind boys that the project is a rather simple one but it is about more than just a pile of coats. It is about helping others and meeting their needs.



*First Baptist Church
Royal Ambassador Mission Project*

Dear Friend:

Royal Ambassadors is a mission education and involvement ministry that works specifically with boys in first through sixth grades. Each week we learn about work being done around the world and here in the United States to share the love of Jesus with others. Currently we are working to collect coats to be given to those who can not afford a coat of their own.

We are asking for dry cleaned coats to be given to an RA who will turn in the coats for you at the collection site at our church. They will then be given to **[insert name of organization]** to be given to those in need, free of charge.

Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

John A. Sample
RA Director