

WINTER COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

Description/Guidelines

PURPOSE: To help to keep those who don't have money for new coats and blankets warm through the cold winter months.

BACKGROUND: We deliver all of the coats and blankets to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center. Its coordinator, Alma Santos, has been working with us for several years. Her mother started the food pantry out of the back of a minivan in 1999 as a way to give back what had been given to her and her children after they became homeless following a divorce. "She didn't know when or where but always knew she had a 'deuda'" or debt to pay back, Santos said. Started to offer food and encouragement, the center has become a life-changer, she said. "Every day that I come to work, I see myself in the children that come ... and I can see my mom in their parents," Santos said. "That is why I am so driven to do more."

LOCATION/DATE/TIME: Coat collections to be done on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday in October. Make sure that there is a message in the bulletin pertaining to the coat drive.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place message in bulletin and Tower Tidings at least 2-4 weeks prior to collection days.
2. Collect coats in Fellowship Hall.
3. On the final day of collection, arrange for one or two cars to deliver coats/blankets to Alma Santos (614-806-4012) at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, 441 Industry Dr, Columbus, OH 43204. She will make sure they get into the hands of people who need them most.

To purchase coats and blankets, one could shop at Salvation Army or Goodwill. Another great source for children's coats and baby blankets is the Three Bags Full sales held each spring and fall. See their website for dates and locations: threebagsfull.com.

PRAYER: May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;
 the rains fall soft upon your fields
 and until we meet again,
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

TIME COMMITMENT: Shopping and preparation 1-2 hours

THANK YOU for all you are doing to help the community. We appreciate your service.