

Coats for Kids



Needy children receive winter coats.



Thank You from the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus would like to send a very hearty thank you to everyone who participated in the Coats for Kids drive from January 8 - January 16. In excess of 170 coats were collected to be distributed to kids in need in the Flowery Branch area. The coats were distributed to the Prince of Peace St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Gainesville Boys and Girls Club and to a family that was victim to a house fire. Additional coats will be distributed in the days and weeks ahead.

Special thanks to the Coats for Kids Director, Joe Neesen, who along with fellow Knights Luis Hernandez, Pedro Mandujana and Luis Dominguez, invested over 40 hours organizing the set-up, collection and distribution of all coats. We would also like to thank Girl Scout Troop 11806 from Auburn, GA for their donation of 15 coats.

Photo: Bulletin announcement announcing the results of a successful drive!

Flowery Branch, GA - In an effort to bring our local council efforts in line with state needs, a new program called "Coats for Kids" was placed in front of the council. Our event calendar was busting at the seams, but this was a noble enough cause to bring forth and see if the Holy Spirit moved anyone to volunteer before winter quickly ended.

Without hesitation, three newly inducted Hispanic 1st Degree Knights volunteered to

lead the project. In an effort to provide support and guidance, they were placed under the tutelage of Church director Joe Neesen.

Quickly dubbed the "three amigos" our 1st Degree Knights developed a communication plan, collection strategy, worked in creating distribution pipelines, and successfully executed a fairly complex project plan.



Photo: Over 170 coats were collected over 2 weekends.

In the end, over 170 coats were collected for needy children in 2 weekends. All coats were successfully distributed locally. St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Gainesville Boys and Girls club were all major recipients as well as a family that were the victims of a house fire.

It should also be noted, this project finally completed a new 1st Degree's journey to receive the Shining Armor Award.

Event:
Coats for Kids
Category:
Church
Date:
Jan 8-16, 2011
Location:
Flowery Branch, GA

Manhours:
50 Hours
Chairman:
Joe Neesen
Luis Hernandez, Pedro Mandujano, and Luis Dominguez
Est. No. of Volunteers:
6 Knights



Coats for Kids

In an effort to keep donated coats local, we first turned to Prince of Peace's local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul society. In a surprising turn of events the Knights were originally told there was only a need for them to take a small amount (roughly 5-8) of coats.

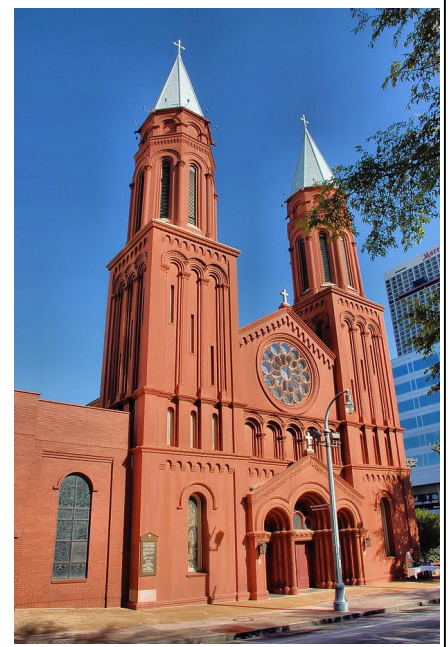
However, as we continued to build a pipeline to distribute coats, the Prince of Peace SvDP chapter returned 3 separate times for more coats. In the end, they took close to 80% of our collected coats and distributed them almost immediately.



Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Krafick, has a long standing relationship with the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in downtown Atlanta after starting a local Bible Study for those that commute into the city.

Knowing the needs of the inner city, Mr. Krafick started open dialogue with Deacon Marino Gonzalez who is the director of Parish outreach.

Ultimately, roughly 10% of collected coats were transitioned to the Basilica for distribution to a select group of homeless families.



1st Degree and newly inducted Knight Pedro Mandujana stepped up to help chair this exciting event. Once all coats were collected he turned to the Gainesville Boys and Girls club where he had close ties. Ultimately another 5-10% of collected coats were transitioned to help a few members of the local chapter.



**BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB**



Coats for Kids

Photo (Right): Bulletin Announcement

The surprise of the event was how fast the church organized and responded. An overwhelming response with just 2 short weeks of promotion through bulletin and pulpit announcements as well as word of mouth through various ministries.

DONATE COATS FOR KIDS

The Prince of Peace Knights of Columbus Council 13457 will be sponsoring a Coats for Kids campaign this winter season.

Bring your new or gently used and cleaned coats to the collection box in the vestibule by January 16th

OR

Help us give a coat to a child in need by providing us with the name, phone number, and boy/girl coat size. Forms for this information are available by the coat drop box and can be left in the slotted box next to it. The coats will be distributed as quickly as child & size matches can be made.

For more information contact Luis Hernandez 678-887-8759; Pedro Mandujana 678-933-9313; Joe Neesen 678-828-9343; or Luis Domigues 678-943-3831.



Photo (Left): [Top Left to Right] Family Director Joe Neesen, Knight Pedro Mandujana, Grand Knight Mark Miklos, and the president of the PoP St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Knights help transition coats to the head of the St. Vincent de Paul society.