



WARM KIDS

P.O. Box 44

Kalamazoo, MI 49004

October 2008

Dear Friends of warm Kids,

Welcome back to a new fall season! It's time to think about the children in our community who may miss school this winter because they dread the ice and cold as they walk to the bus stop. Each year, Kalamazoo County school staff must determine which children in their care most need Warm Kids clothing and which families will have to do without. That's a tough decision to make!

We don't like saying, "sorry, all gone" and would like to provide MORE CHILDREN WITH WARM COATS, BOOTS, GLOVES and HATS. We can do this if you could INCREASE you usual donation and ENCOURAGE FRIENDS to donate. Call me with the address of a caring friend and I will be sure they receive this letter.

Last year we provided 1,000 coats and 800 pairs of boots to Kalamazoo County schoolchildren. That seems like a lot, but schools in our county serve over 14,600 elementary age children, and 40% of those children are living in poverty*! If you can increase your donation, we will stretch your donated dollars, buying first quality, new clothing at the substantial discount of \$45 per child. Any increase you give will be spent wisely and will help make another child feel toasty warm.

Our volunteers are getting ready to fill orders and distribute this year's clothing. The schools are depending on us as they have for the last 21 year. If you can please increase your financial support so that we might provide clothing to an ever increasing number of deserving kids! Thank you!

Warmly,

Leslie Lami-Reed and the Warm Kids volunteers
Home phone: 269-329-0882

P.S. Ask your friends, club members or charitable groups to make a donation to Warm Kids instead of gift-buying during the holidays! Send our web site address to your friends: www.warmkids.org and encourage them to donate. Donations are tax deductible.

* The annual Kids Count report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Michigan league for Human Services revealed that one-third of children in Michigan live in households without a parent who works full-time. In Kalamazoo Count, the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches has risen from 34.6 percent in t2002 to 40.5 percent in 2006

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www.warmkids.org

Dedicated to providing new winter clothing to the children of Kalamazoo County since 1986