

October 2011



Dear Friends and Supporters of "Warm Kids"!

We are launching into our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service with a renewed sense of dedication and an unfailing commitment to provide new winter outerwear to Kalamazoo County school children in need. Last fall, I assisted at a local school passing out the new coats, hats, boots and gloves that Warm Kids provided. (You can see the wide eyes and happy smiles on childrens' faces by viewing photos on our web site.) Children who received the new, warm clothing were so excited! Having the latest styles and colors made them feel ready for winter. Waiting for the bus in the cold won't seem so daunting now.

Each year the hardships seem to increase for many families in our community. The Annie E. Casey Foundation released recent statistics concerning the welfare of children in Kalamazoo County. Students ages 5-17 receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (based on family income) has again risen- *up from 41% in 2008 to 45.4% in 2009.* Warm Kids directly serves these vulnerable young children. Last year we distributed 1100 new coats and 875 pair of boots to help families make ends meet. Just imagine, in our 25 years of service we have distributed approximately 19,000 coats and 18,000 boots to the children of the school districts and agencies listed on the back of this letter.

It takes the efforts of many people to create such results. Warm Kids has enjoyed a long-term partnership with Bermo Enterprises of Schoolcraft and Little Chick Shoes of Portage, where we purchase quality clothing at wholesale prices allowing us to stretch our dollars! "Thank you" to these wonderful businesses for 20+ years of support! "Thank you" to the "home knitters" who knit caps, scarves and mittens for our children! "Thank you" to the volunteers who measure children, cart boxes, sort, organize and distribute clothing. "Thank you" to the individuals, businesses and service organizations that generously and faithfully support us. "Thank YOU" if you choose to support Warm Kids this year!

Please check our financial statement for 2010 on the back of this form. You can be certain your tax-deductible donation will benefit a child in need. Warm Kids clothing DOES make a difference...ask any school principal! No child has to stay inside during recess because they have no boots. Children waiting for the school bell are warmly dressed. Our goal is to have clothing available so all children can be comfortable and warm. You make it happen!

Sincerely,

Leslie Lami-Reed  
President, Warm Kids Project, Inc 269-569-0574