



Winter Wear Share

This winter you can help keep families and children in your community warm by donating winter wear to them that is in great condition but just doesn't fit you any more. New and gently used winter coats, fleeces, winter boots, hats and mittens are always in demand. New items, especially hats and mittens, are always appreciated.

Here's Your Project:

Collect winter clothing and donate it to a homeless shelter or organization that serves homeless people.

Supply List:

- New or gently used clothing items
- Items can include: coats, jackets, sweaters, boots, hats, mittens, etc.
- Optional: collection box
- Optional: markers, construction paper, and poster board for posters and fliers

How To Do It!

- 1 Contact an agency that can use your winter wear, such as homeless shelters, low-income pediatric clinics or youth shelters. Some schools or community centers might have a "family clothes closet" or know of an agency that provides clothing free of charge to children.
- 2 Ask the agency what they will accept. Make sure you know if they will take gently used items or only new items.
- 3 Search your closets for items to give. Make sure they are all washed and nothing is missing or broken.
- 4 Think about doing a neighborhood drive to collect items. Your family or school can make flyers and designate a pick up date. List the items you need and provide a note telling people the items need to be clean. Attach the flyer to a large plastic bag where the clothes can be collected.
- 5 Deliver your items to the agency.



Interesting Fact:
Almost half of all homeless people are families—adults and children



Preflection:

Before your volunteer project, be clear about what the goals and expectations are. Also talk about why you are doing a service project. Here are questions to guide your discussion:

1. Who are we helping?
2. Why are we helping them?
3. How are we helping them?
4. What are we most excited about?
5. What might be tough or challenging about our project?
6. What are everyone's jobs during the project? What do we each have to do?

Reflection:

After your volunteer project, it is important to reflect on the experience. You can use the reflection questions to guide discussion or do the Whip Around reflection activity:

Reflection Questions

1. How did our project help people?
2. Did we learn anything or make any new friends?
3. What worked well about our project?
4. What can we do better next time?
5. What is our next service project?

Whip Around Ball Toss:

Have your group sit or stand in a circle facing each other. One person will have a ball to toss or roll to someone else in the circle. Each person will have a chance to complete a statement about the project. The person with the ball makes a statement, and then says the name of the person they are tossing the ball to. The next person completes the statement in his or her own way, and so on. When the ball has gone around once, start a new round with a new statement. Try these:

"This project made me happy because _____."

"I didn't know I was good at _____."

"Next time we volunteer, I'd like to help _____."



Suggested Reading:

***Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting**

A small child lives with his father in an airport. He talks about sleeping sitting up, washing in the restroom, and above all, avoiding being noticed. The story runs through all his emotions from a matter-of-fact acceptance to a fierce longing that makes him angry with those who have homes.

***A Shelter in Our Car* by Monica Gunning**

Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. After Papa died, Mama can't find a steady job and they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, they will survive.

Pledge this project for the **Holiday Gift Campaign** and **Hasbro** will donate a toy through **Toys for Tots** on behalf of each person helping with your project! (Up to 100,000 toys!)

