

Worcester Public Schools

COATS & KIDS



2018-2019 REPORT

PROGRAM MISSION

To provide new, winter outerwear to Worcester children in need to foster comfort and confidence in an effort to increase attendance and participation in school.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) Coats for Kids Program provides new winter outerwear to children in need throughout the district which includes 48 schools, the Worcester Head Start Program, the Worcester Family Partnership Program and several area homeless shelters.

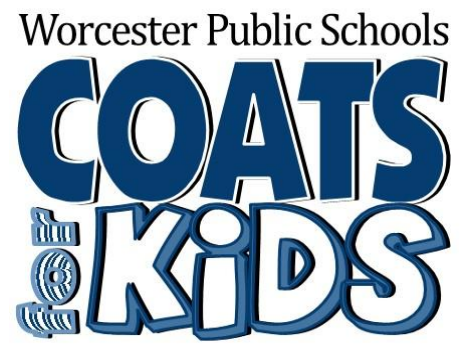
Almost 3,000 winter jackets, hats, mittens and/or sweatshirts are distributed to infants through high school aged students annually. In addition, winter outerwear is provided to the Parent Information Center for families arriving from other countries, registering in our schools.

The WPS Coats for Kids Committee is comprised of *volunteers*, administrators, teachers and community members. The committee helps plan events, fundraising and distribution.

The Worcester Educational Development Foundation (WEDF) serves as the fiscal agent for the WPS Coats for Kids Program. WEDF was founded in 2005 for the sole purpose of supporting the WPS and identifying resources to meet the needs of students.

Worcester children receive new winter outerwear through the support of many Worcester area businesses, foundations, organizations, churches, individuals and the Worcester Public Schools Principals Association. The WPS Coats for Kids Program has been so successful because of the many businesses and individuals who have joined our efforts and generously contributed monetary donations or provided items for our fundraiser.





Durkin Administration Building | 20 Irving Street | Worcester, MA 01609 | 508.799.3479
www.worcesterschools.org/about/community-partnerships/coats-for-kids/

COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Vecchio ~ Program Coordinator

Dr. Susan O'Neil ~ Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Ivonne Perez ~ Principal, Chandler Magnet School

Luke Robert ~ Principal, May Street School

Michele Wilson ~ Principal, Midland Street School

Michael Lyons ~ Teacher, WPS Home and Hospital Program

Deanna Paldino ~ Office of the Superintendent

John Trainor ~ WPS Adult and Continuing Education

Louise Clarke ~ Vice President & Executive Director - WEDF

Frances Arena ~ Treasurer - WEDF

Judith Niddrie ~ Retired WPS Teacher

Christine Scully ~ Retired WPS Teacher

Christopher Reidy ~ Eagle Scout | Student, Doherty Memorial High School

In partnership with



Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc. | 210 Park Avenue Suite 224 | Worcester, MA 01609

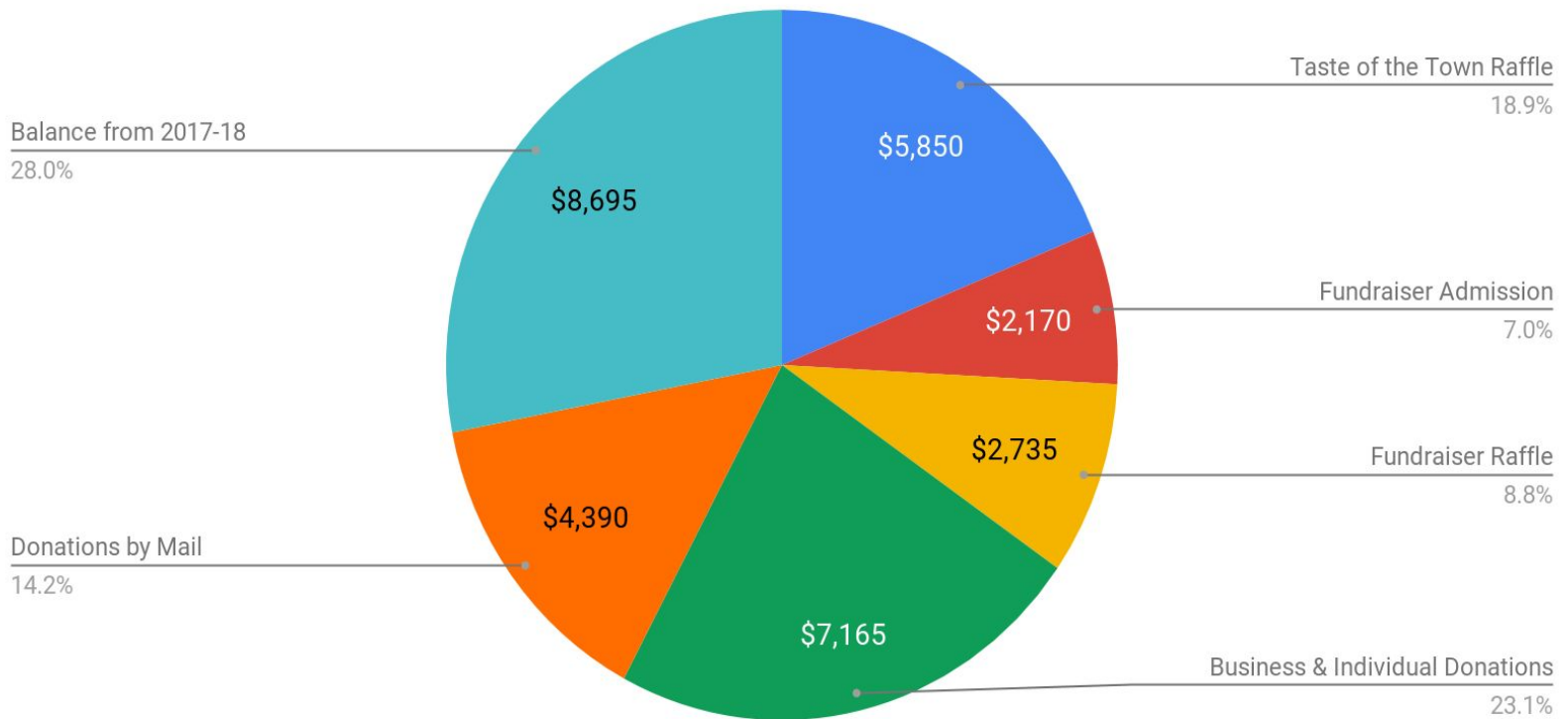
wedfwps.org

as of January 31, 2019...

2,759 children have brand new coats, hats and mittens!

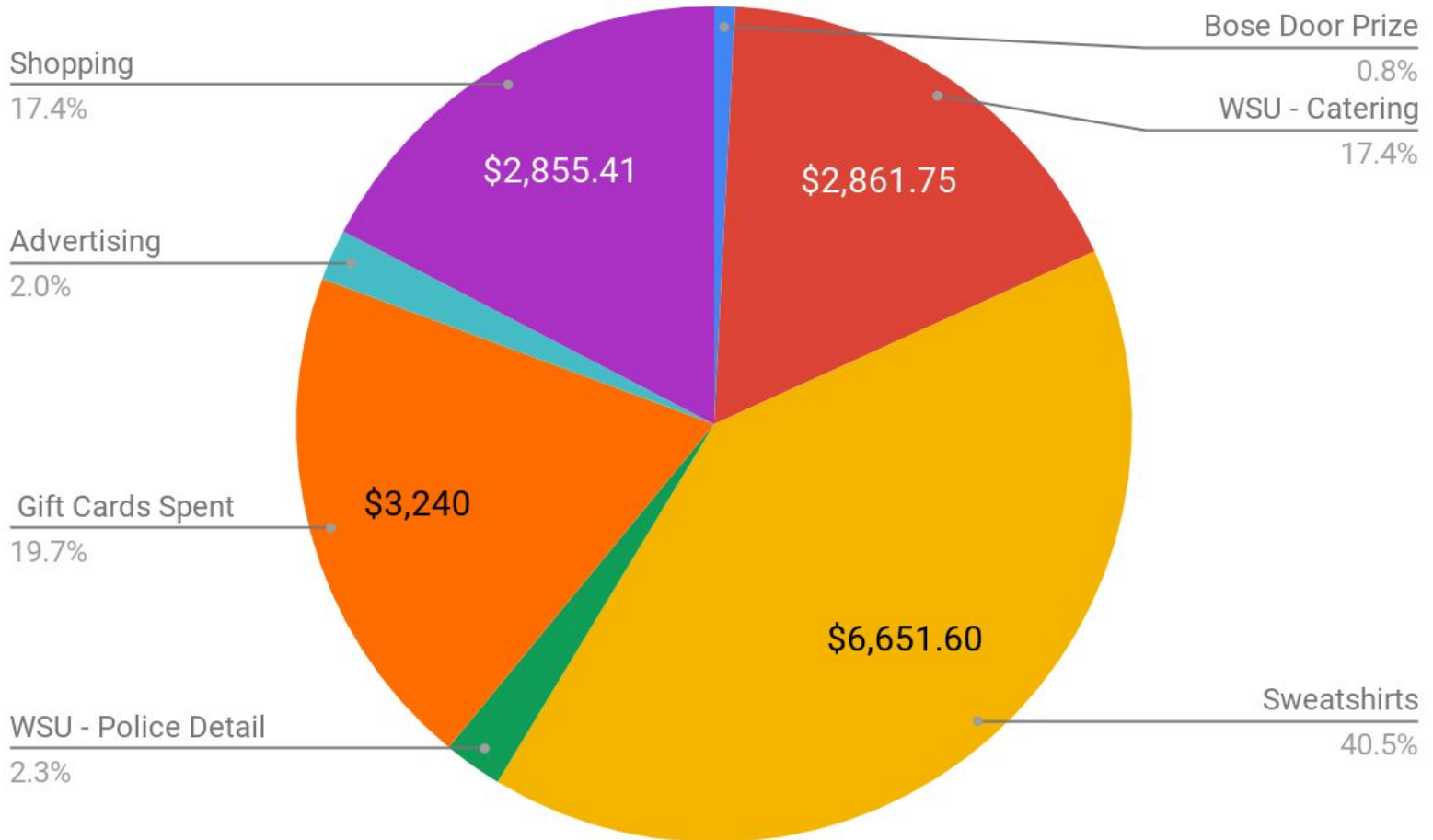
- 30 Elementary Schools
- 5 Middle Schools
- 7 High Schools
- 4 Alternative Programs
- NCC Young Adult Program
- Transition Program
- Head Start ~ 4 sites | 2 - 4 year olds
- Worcester Family Partnership | *birth - 3 year olds*
- Parent Information Center

FUNDS



TOTAL ~ \$31,006

EXPENSES



TOTAL ~ \$16,441.26

FUNDRAISER



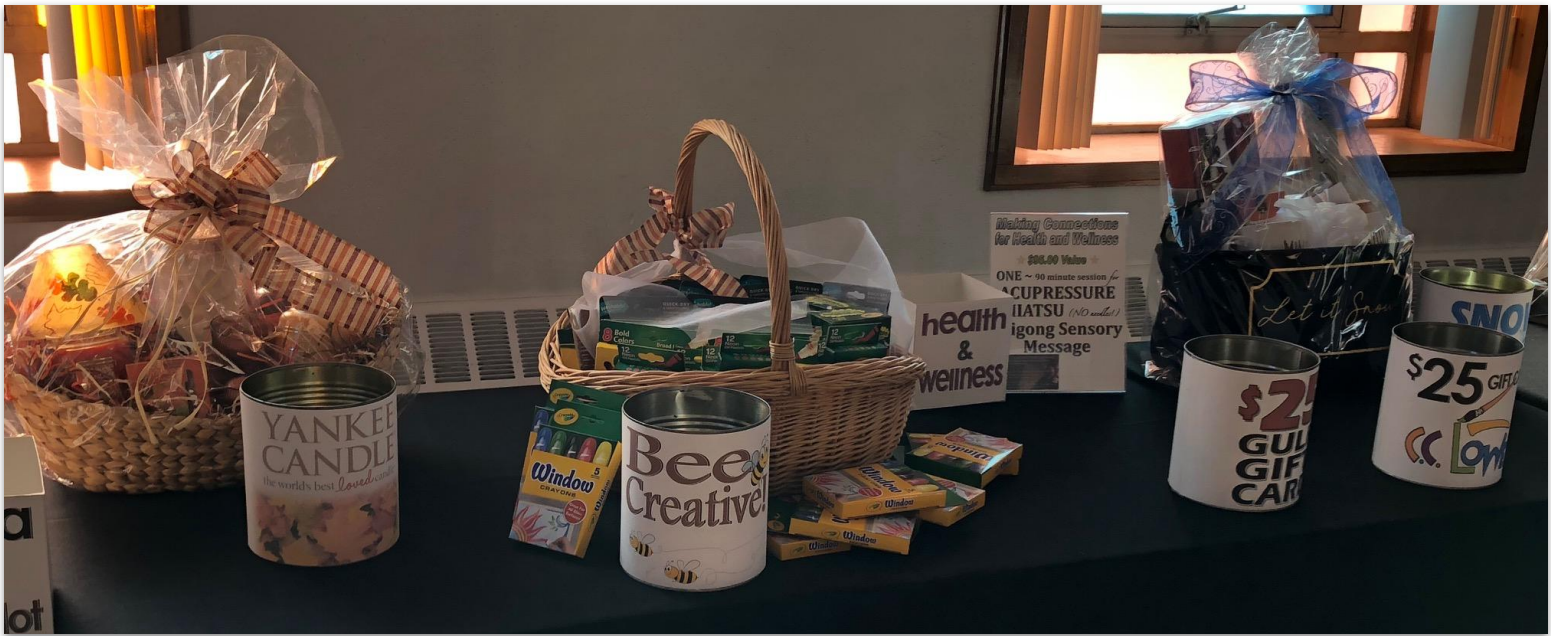
Fundraising Event
Worcester State University
May Street Building
November 7, 2018

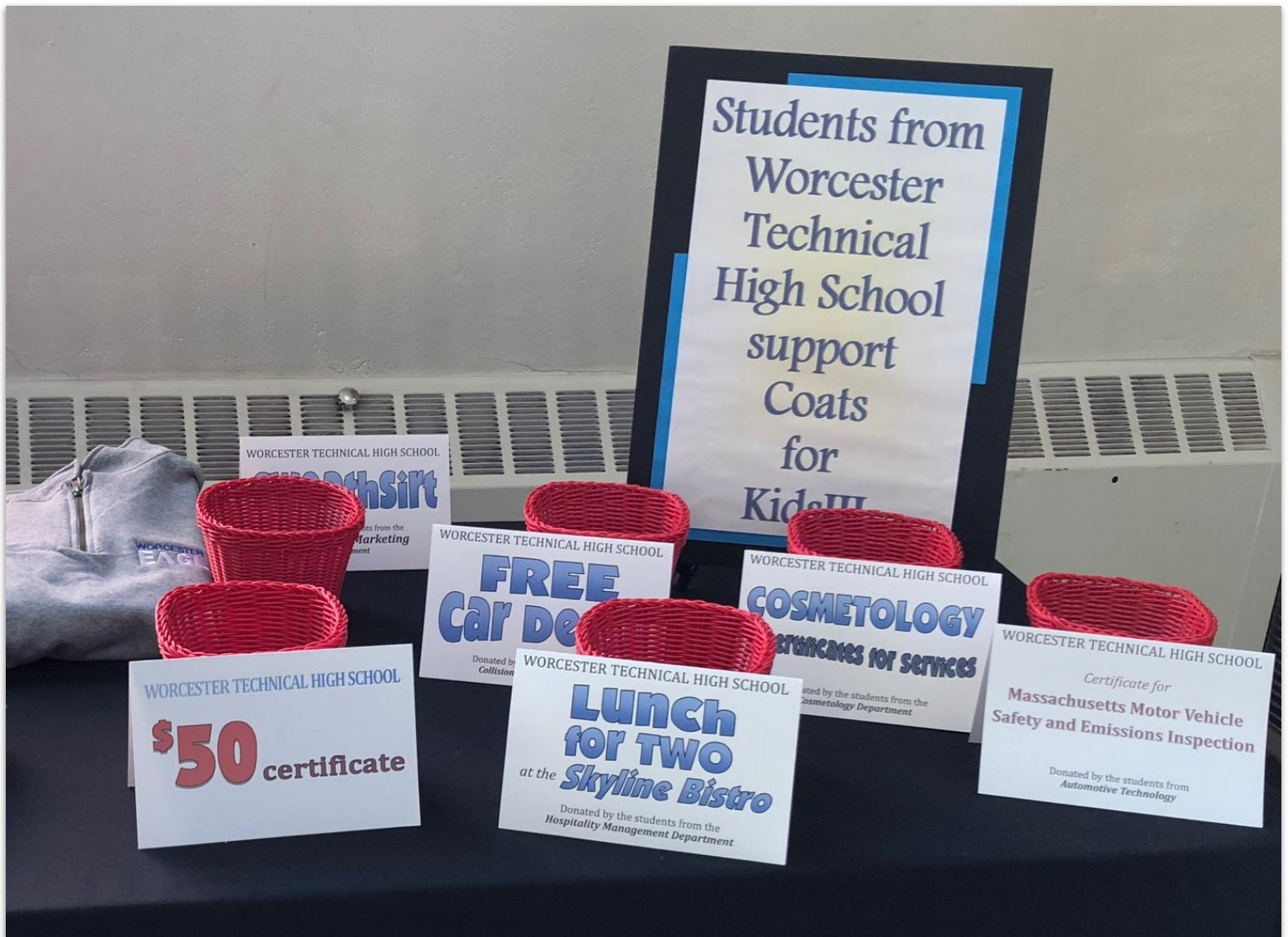


Worcester's pro sport teams attend the Coats for Kids fundraiser!









Community & Individuals STEPPING UP!

Coats ...with matching Hats & Mittens !!!

- **Business's | Colleges | Individuals have purchased 1,134 coats;**
 - 10 individuals (15)
 - 4th Grade Students at Spring Street School, Shrewsbury (7)
 - Hanover Insurance Group (200)
 - UMass Medical School, Department of Family Medicine & Community Health (40)
 - UMMC Ambulatory Psychiatry Service (25)
 - UMass Medical School, Community & Governmental Relations (19)
 - Teamsters Union Local 170 (115)
 - Operation Warm (600)
 - MassMEP (*Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership*) (7)
 - Assumption College (40)
 - WPI (12)
 - Worcester District Court Probation Department (23)
 - 3D7 Education through Design (12)
 - In-Kind (19)
- **Hats & Mittens**
 - Worcester State University Senior Cookie Swap Club ~ 2 LARGE bags of handmade felt hats
 - Molly McCullough and Family ~ 100 hand-knitted hats
 - Holden Knitting Group ~ 100 hand-knitted hats & mittens
 - WPI (John & Mary Goulet) ~ 50 hand-knitted hats
 - UMass Medical School ~ 400 hats
- **Monetary Donations**
 - EMPLOYEES at UMass Memorial Health Care (*Kate Behan/Becky Martella*) ~ \$2,500
 - In-Kind Donation of Gift Cards ~ \$2,500
 - Claremont Academy Student Community Service Club ~ \$100
 - Midland Street School PTO ~ \$100
 - Schwartz & Plante Attorneys at Law on behalf of Lincoln Street School ~ \$250
 - Donations via mail ~ \$4,690
- **10 Coat Drives**
 - Grimes & Company, Inc. (*Karen Belliveau*)
 - UMass Medical School (*Glady McRell*)
 - Mechanics Hall (*Joan Stewart*) hosting @ 8 locations ~ 337 coats;
 - Mechanics Hall
 - Fidelity Bank ~ Front Street
 - Fidelity Bank ~ Shrewsbury Street
 - Cromptive Collective
 - Homewood Suites
 - Buck's Whiskey & Burger Bar
 - NKD Waxing, Lashes & Makeup
 - Sorelle Salon & Spa

DISTRIBUTION

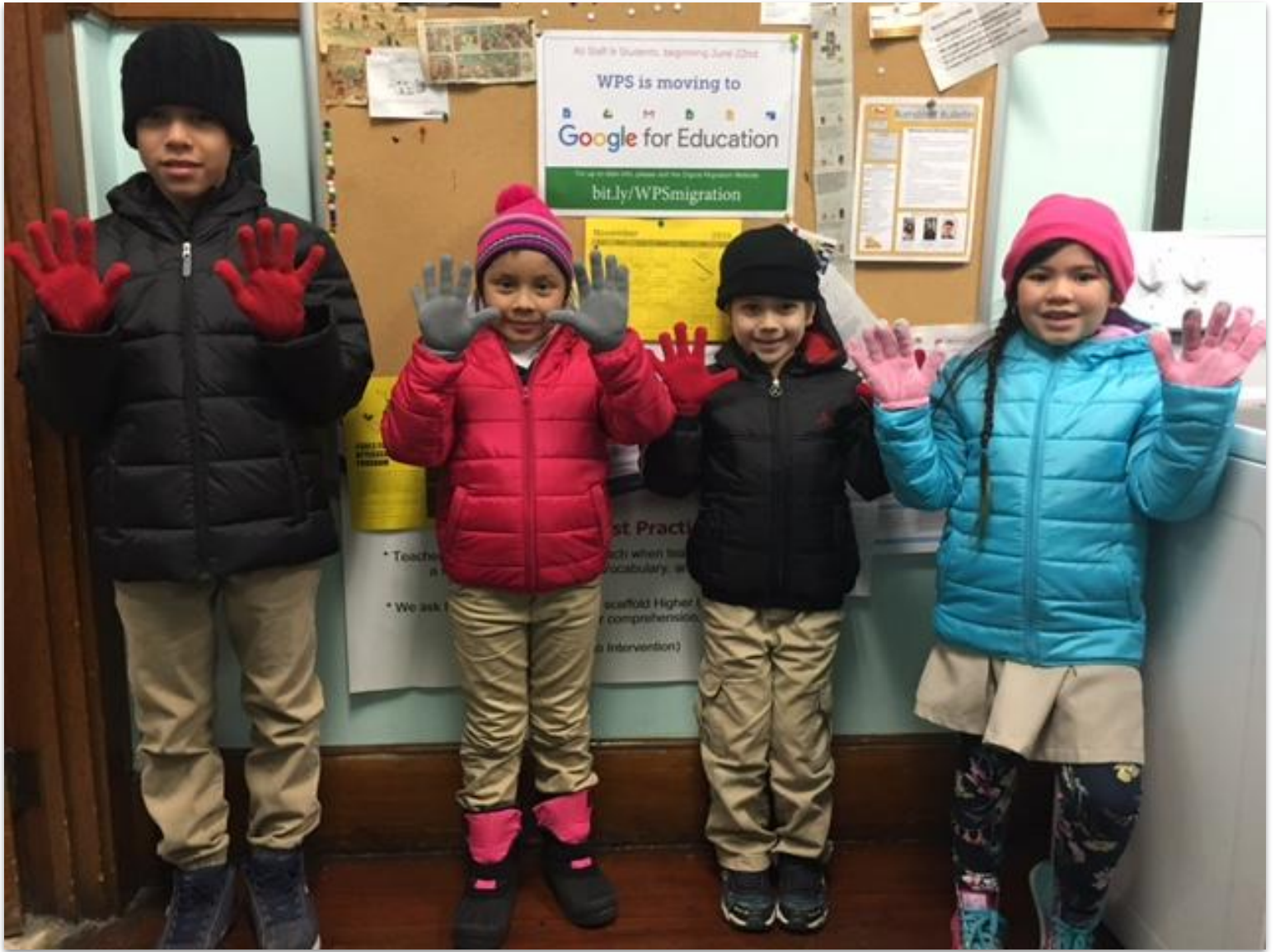


Students at Woodland Academy receiving brand new coats from TJX





26 students at Burncoat Prep receive brand new coats from Mary Innis and her TEAM @ UMMMC, Ambulatory Psychiatry Service



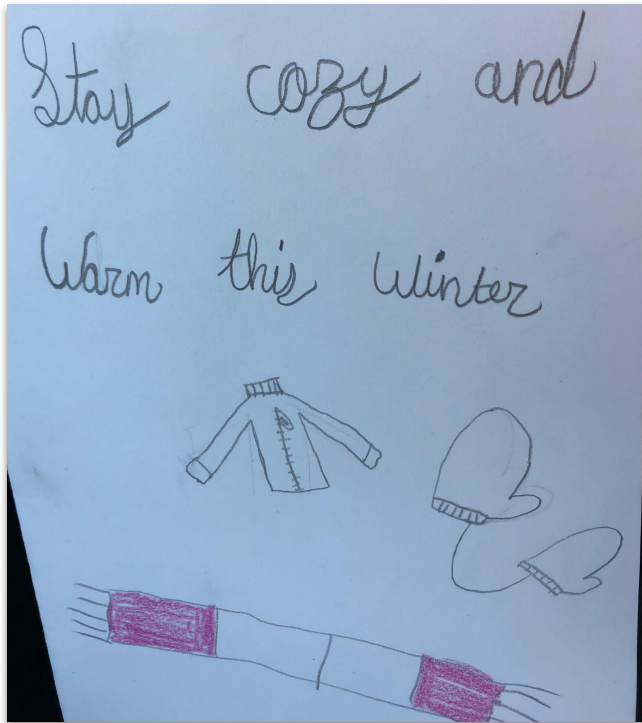
Jackie Rucci and her TEAM @ Teamsters Union Local 170 purchased brand new coats for 115 students at Quinsigamond School



4th grade students at Spring Street School in Shrewsbury sponsored seven (7) WPS students in need!



The Shrewsbury students did chores at home to raise monies to buy tons of winter clothing for our students and wrote them letters of support and encouragement



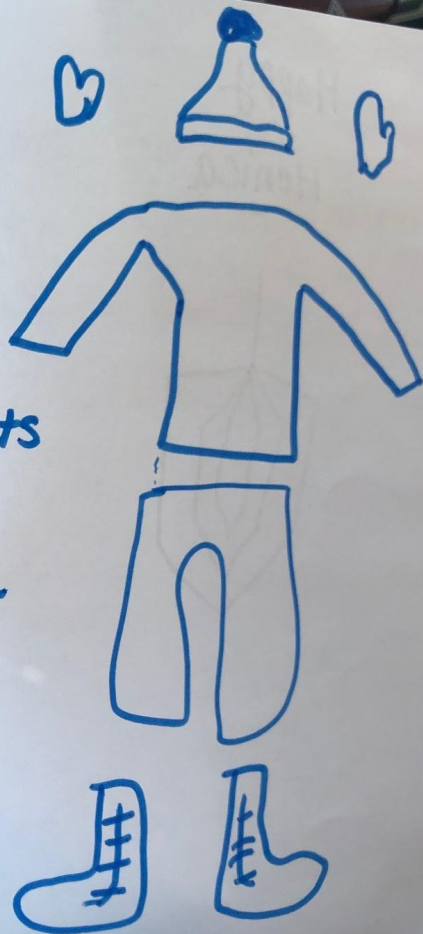
Dear Gianzyel,
Hi I am a Caleb it is nice to meet you.
I am in 4th grade and me and my class
worked really hard to get these coats and I hope
you enjoyed them. You have a big life ahead of
you.

From,
Caleb

Dear Gianzyel,

I hope you like all
the winter gear we
bought for you. Did
you know we did chores
to earn money to buy
you coats and snowpants
and all other winter
gear. Please treat them
well.

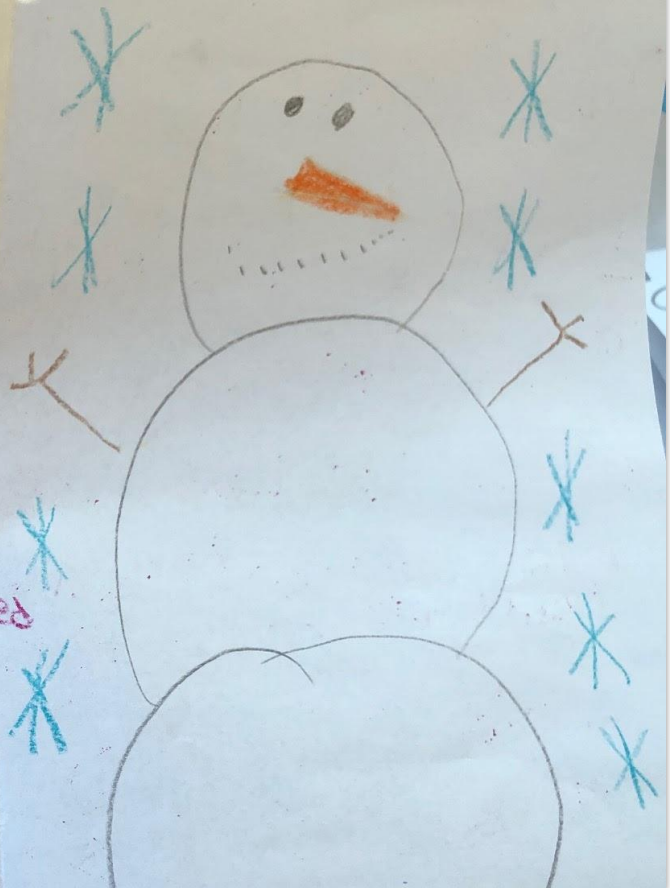
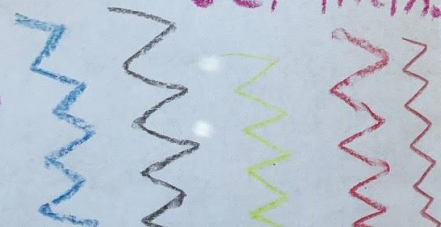
I hope you
enjoy everything,
Sincerely
Brendan.



Dear Nuradin,

I'm so happy that you
get all these things
to keep you warm over
the winter! We worked
really hard to get them.

Love,
Nora



Nuradin,
You're wel com for the
Jackets and snow pants.
Hope you are warm. 😊



Brrrrr!

I hope you feel
special after you get
all of this attention because
if you do i would be so
happy. From MaKhy.

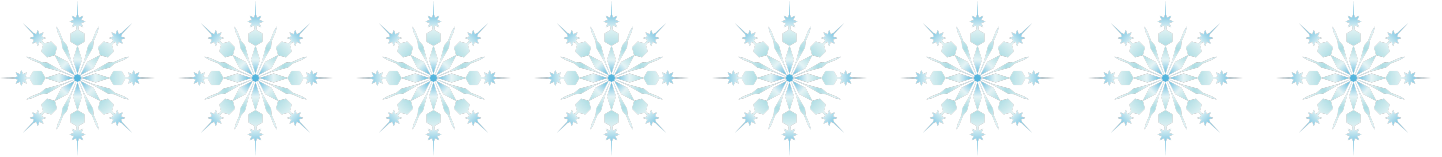
COATS, COATS & MORE COATS



Hats & Mittens and Hats & Mittens and more Hats & Mittens!



TESTIMONIALS



"We are more than happy to help some children smile and stay warm! We also put a book for each child in each bag ... as a passionate and voracious reader, I have to promote reading too!"

~ Jackie St. Martin Family

"Thank you for providing coats to some of our young adults in the NCCYA Program. They were thrilled to leave school today with a warm coat and looked terrific wearing them!"

~ With appreciation, Judy Freedman Fask, NCCYA

"The thing I found most impressive was the impact created by Coats for Kids. The amount of kids in need and those needs being met is a crazy amount, but knowing how positively this will impact not only their winters, but also their lives, is unbelievable. Knowing this work is really going to help kids in Worcester has been what stands out most to me, and made all of the work worthwhile."

~ Chris Reidy, Boy Scout, Troop 9, Eagles Scout Project

"We want to thank you for the sweatshirts you provided to the students at the Challenge and Reach Academy. You can't imagine how happy the students were to get these. They wear the WPS sweatshirts with great pride. Thank You on behalf of all of our students."

~ Challenge and Reach Academy

"Thank you so much for all you do to make sure our children have coats! It is appreciated greatly! All of our little bunnies seem to be dressed appropriately for the cold ahead! "

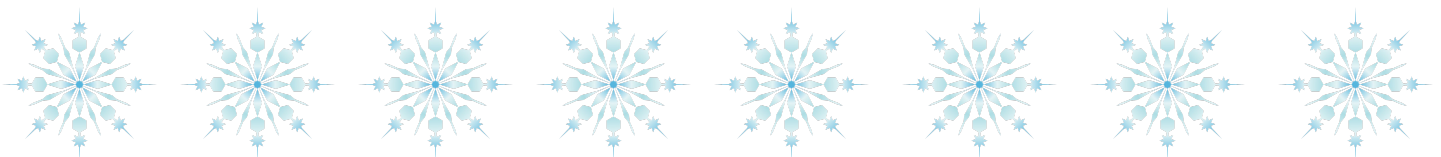
~ Quinsigamond School

"We often have kids who come to school and don't have a coat on so, WOW!!! Thanks you so much! We are very appreciative!"

~ Worcester Technical High School Preschool

"Hi Coats for Kids team! Just wanted to send out a thanks for all the sweatshirts UPCS received. The kids LOVE them!!"

~ Daniel St. Louis, Principal, University Park Campus School

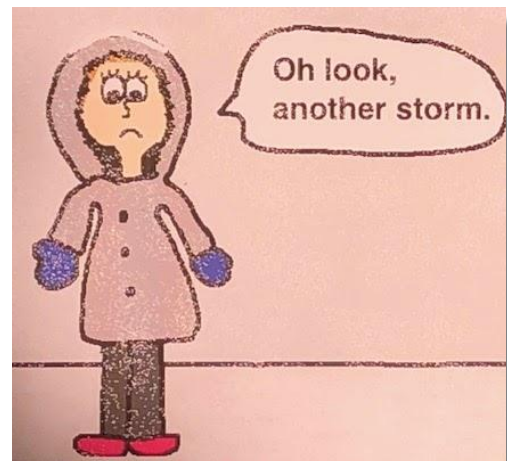


Help is Needed in Our Community - Coats for Kids Taking Place

October 2018 | John Monfredo, GoLocalWorcester MINDSETTER™

A school district that cares responds to the needs of a community and reaches out to make a difference in the lives of our children. Worcester Public Schools is one of those districts that meets the challenge of assisting the needs of the students.

Providing a coat to a student who otherwise could not buy one does support confidence and self-esteem, and helps them feel more comfortable coming to school but as Elizabeth Vecchio, Program Coordinator, acknowledges *"This program provides new warm outerwear to Worcester children in need. It fosters comfort and confidence in an effort to increase attendance and participation in schools."* She went on to say that the number one way to break the cycle of poverty is through education. That these new coats assist children to be able to attend school more often on cold and rainy days but for those children receiving a new coat or outerwear it can be much more than just warmth. It can inspire happiness and improve peer acceptance, self-respect, school attendance and overall wellness. *"It tells a child, you're worth it!"* Keeping children healthy and warm throughout the cold winter months can changes lives, echoed Mrs. Vecchio.



If you would like additional information about the Worcester Public Schools Coats for Kids Program, please contact

Liz Vecchio, Program Coordinator

508.799.3479 | vecchio@worcesterschools.net