

Worcester Public Schools

# COATS & KIDS



2021-2022

# ANNUAL 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 that includes 48 schools, the Worcester Head Start Program, the Worcester Family Partnership Program and several area homeless shelters.

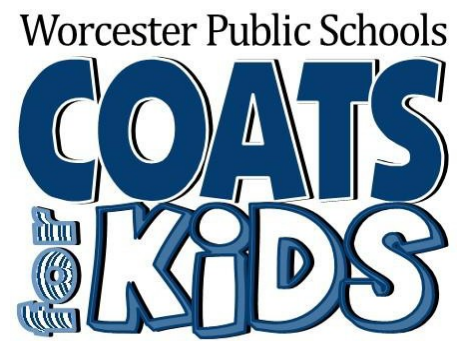
Almost 3,000 winter jackets, hats, mittens and/or sweatshirts are distributed to infants through high school aged students annually. In addition, winter outerwear is provided to the Parent Information Center for families arriving from other countries, registering in our schools.

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, schools, churches and individuals. The WPS Coats for Kids Program has been so successful because of those who have joined our efforts and generously contributed monetary donations, sponsored individual children or donated new winter wear.





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

## COMMITTEE

**Elizabeth Vecchio** ~ *Program Coordinator*

**Dr. Susan O'Neil** ~ *Deputy Superintendent of Schools*

**Michael Lyons** ~ *Teacher, WPS Home and Hospital Program*

**Louise Clarke** ~ *Vice President & Executive Director - WEDF*

*In partnership with*



Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc.

210 Park Avenue Suite 224 | Worcester, MA 01609

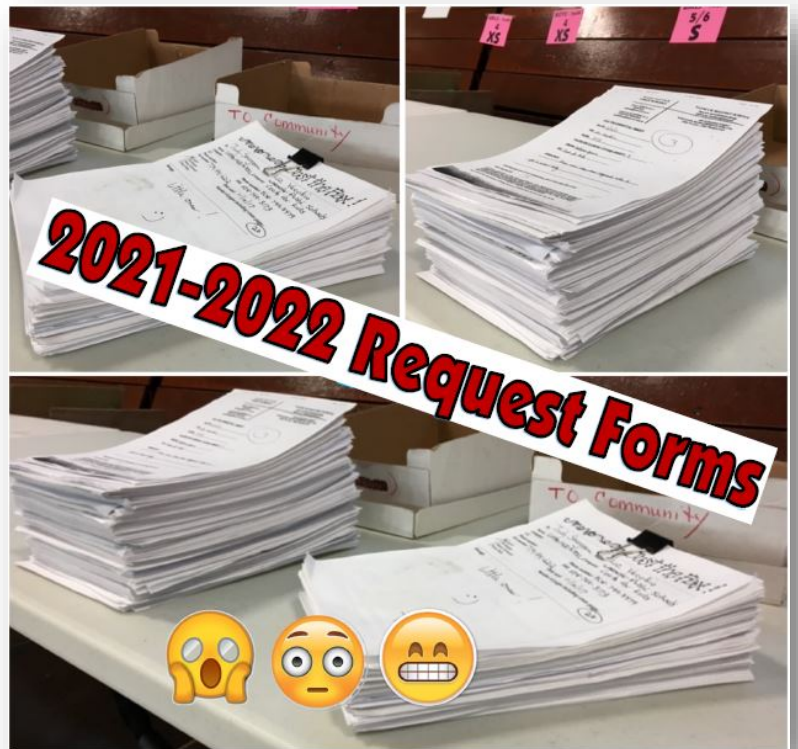
[wedfwps.org](http://wedfwps.org)

as of February 11, 2022...

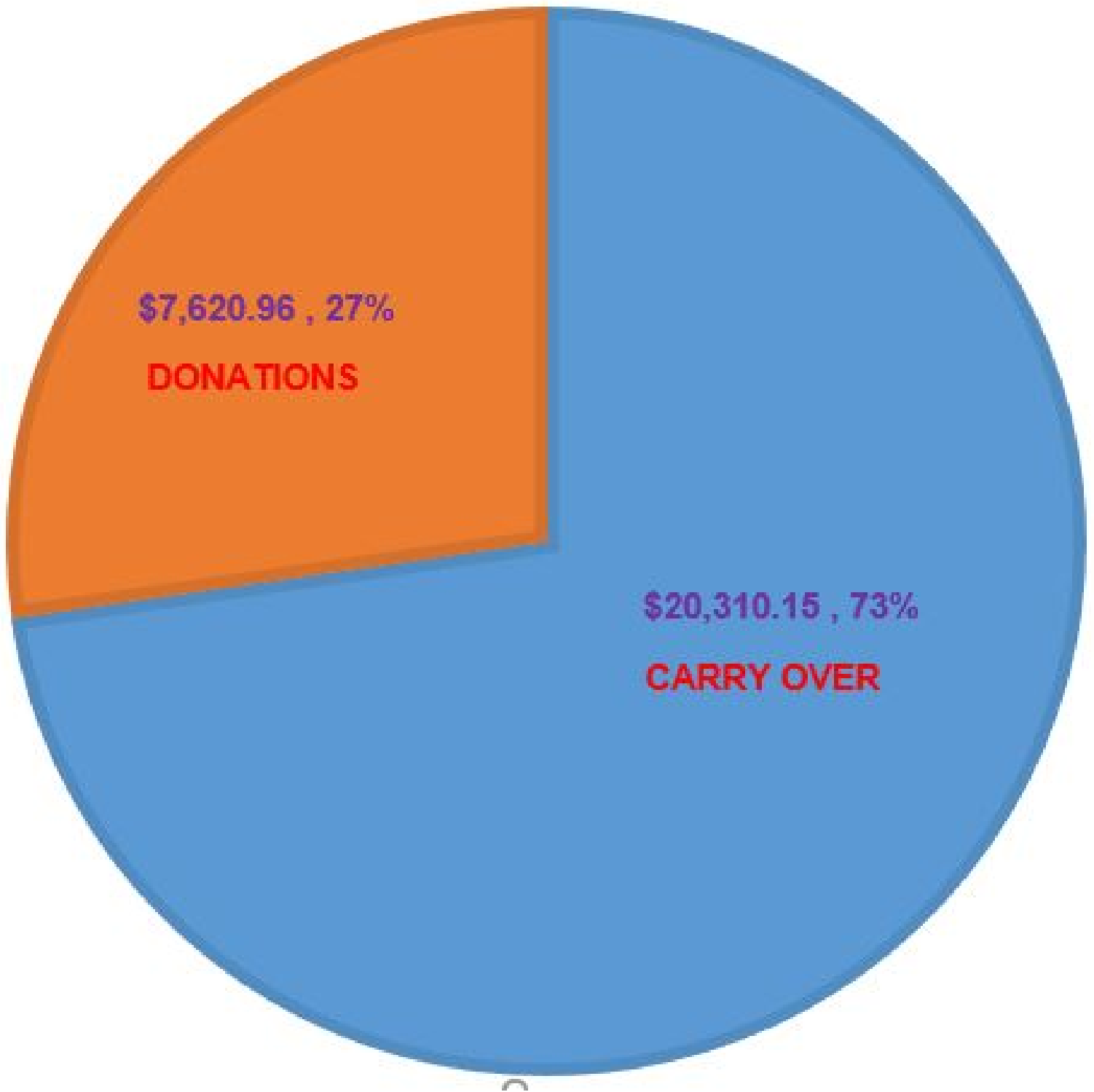
# 2,816 children have brand new coats, hats and mittens!

*We have distributed to:*

- 32 Elementary Schools
- 5 Middle Schools
- 7 High Schools
- 4 Alternative Programs
- Transition Program
- ACE Program
- Head Start ~ 4 sites | 2 - 4 year olds
- Worcester Family Partnership | birth - 3 year olds
- 5 Community Agencies



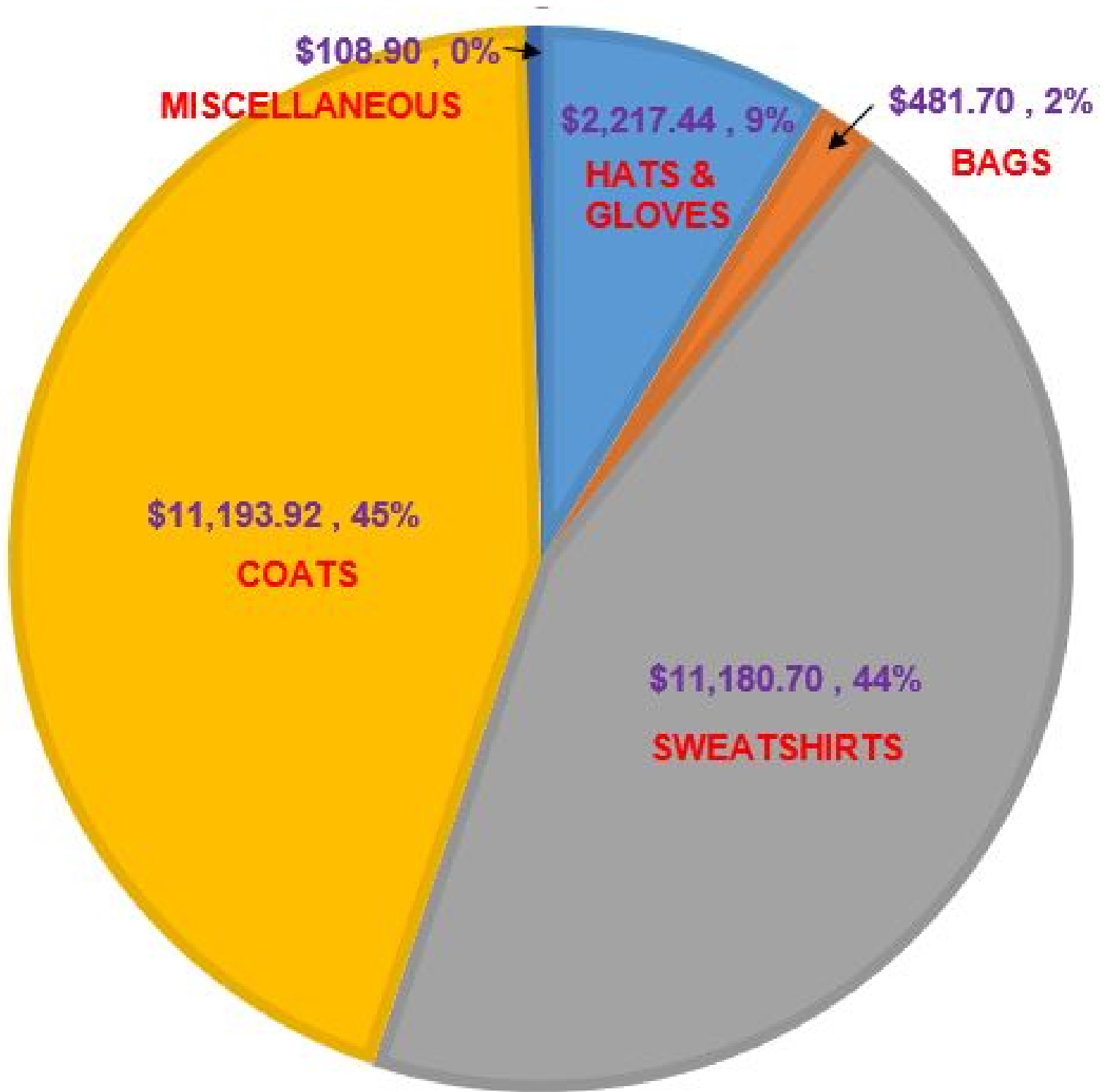
# BUDGET



**TOTAL ~ \$27,931.11**



# EXPENSES



**TOTAL ~ \$25,182.66**

# FUNDRAISER

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we were very limited with fundraising opportunities. The only thing we were able to do was to send out a mass mailing to the community.



\*\*\* As an initiative to support the Worcester Public Schools COATS FOR KIDS Program \*\*\*

September 2021

Dear Friends,

The **Worcester Public Schools 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. Over 3,000 winter coats, hats, mittens and/or sweatshirts are distributed to infants through high school students annually. The program has been successful because of the many businesses and individuals who have made monetary donations, shopped for outerwear or sponsored a child.

*Without the generosity of a caring community, success would not be possible.*

If you would be interested in joining our efforts, it would be greatly appreciated.



Monetary donations\* can be made by visiting [wedfwp.org/donate-coats-for-kids](https://wedfwp.org/donate-coats-for-kids) ~ or ~ mail your check to:

Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc.

Attn: 2021-2022 WPS Coats for Kids

210 Park Avenue, Suite 224 | Worcester, MA 01609



If you would be interested in donating new coats, hats or mittens,\* items can be dropped off at:

Worcester Public Schools

20 Irving Street, Room 008 | Worcester, MA 01609

Attn: Elizabeth Vecchio



If you would be interested in sponsoring a specific child,\* please contact:

Elizabeth Vecchio | [vecchio@worcesterschools.net](mailto:vecchio@worcesterschools.net) | office 508-799-3479 / cell 508-735-1288

On behalf of the deserving and grateful children who will benefit from your support and generosity, thank you for your consideration.

With gratitude,

*Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc.,  
on behalf of the Coats for Kids Program*

<https://sites.google.com/worcesterschools.net/wpscoatsforkids/home>

[worcesterschools.org/coats-for-kids](https://worcesterschools.org/coats-for-kids)

FOLLOW COATS FOR KIDS!



[twitter.com/ForWps](https://twitter.com/ForWps)



Instagram

[instagram.com/wps\\_coats\\_for\\_kids](https://instagram.com/wps_coats_for_kids)



\*All donations are tax deductible through the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc.  
The WEDF maintains 501c(3) non-profit status. All donations made to WEDF are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.

# Community & Individuals STEPPING UP!

- ***The following is a list of those who supported us by sponsoring students with the purchase of new coats, hats & mittens!***
  - 11 individuals (15 students)
  - 4th Grade Students at Spring Street School, Shrewsbury (8 students)
  - Teamsters Union Local 170 (150 students)
  - TJX (850 students)
  - Assumption University (50 students)
  - Worcester District Probate Court (6 students)

- ***Hundreds and hundreds of hats were handmade and donated by the following amazing individuals:***

- John & Mary Goulet
- Claudia Cullen
- Bev Doten

- ***Monetary Donations***

- Donations ~ \$7,620.96

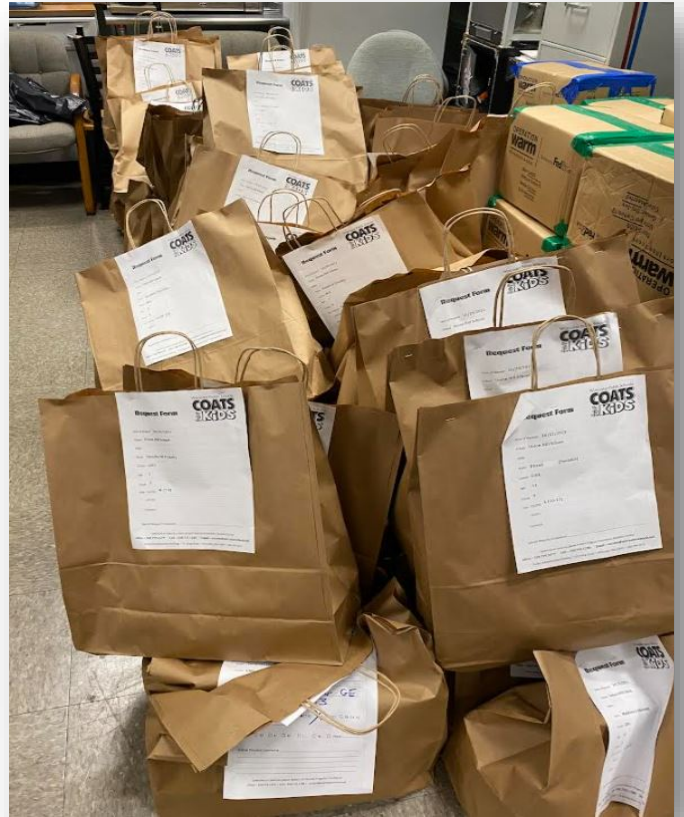
- ***3 Coat Drives***

- Aerie Pharmaceuticals
- Wilson Language Training
- First Baptist Church of Worcester





# DISTRIBUTION



**Jackie Rucci and her TEAM @ Teamsters Union Local 170  
purchased brand new coats for 150 students**





4th grade students at Spring Street School in Shrewsbury sponsored 2 families (8 children / 1 mom) 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



Stay cozy and  
warm this winter

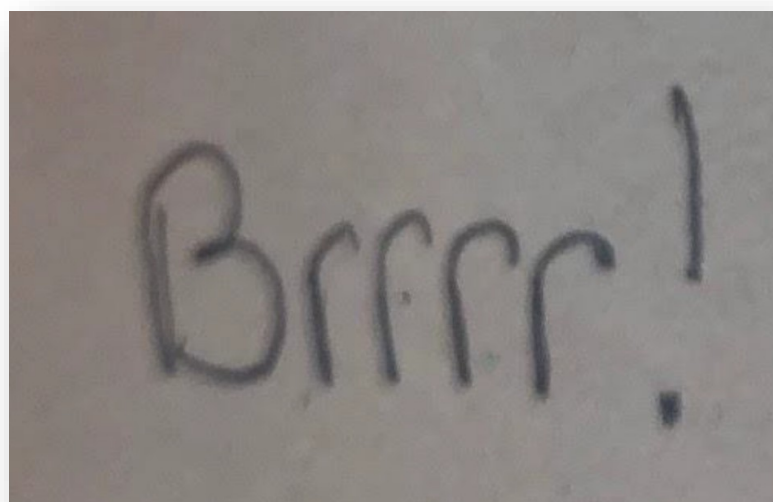
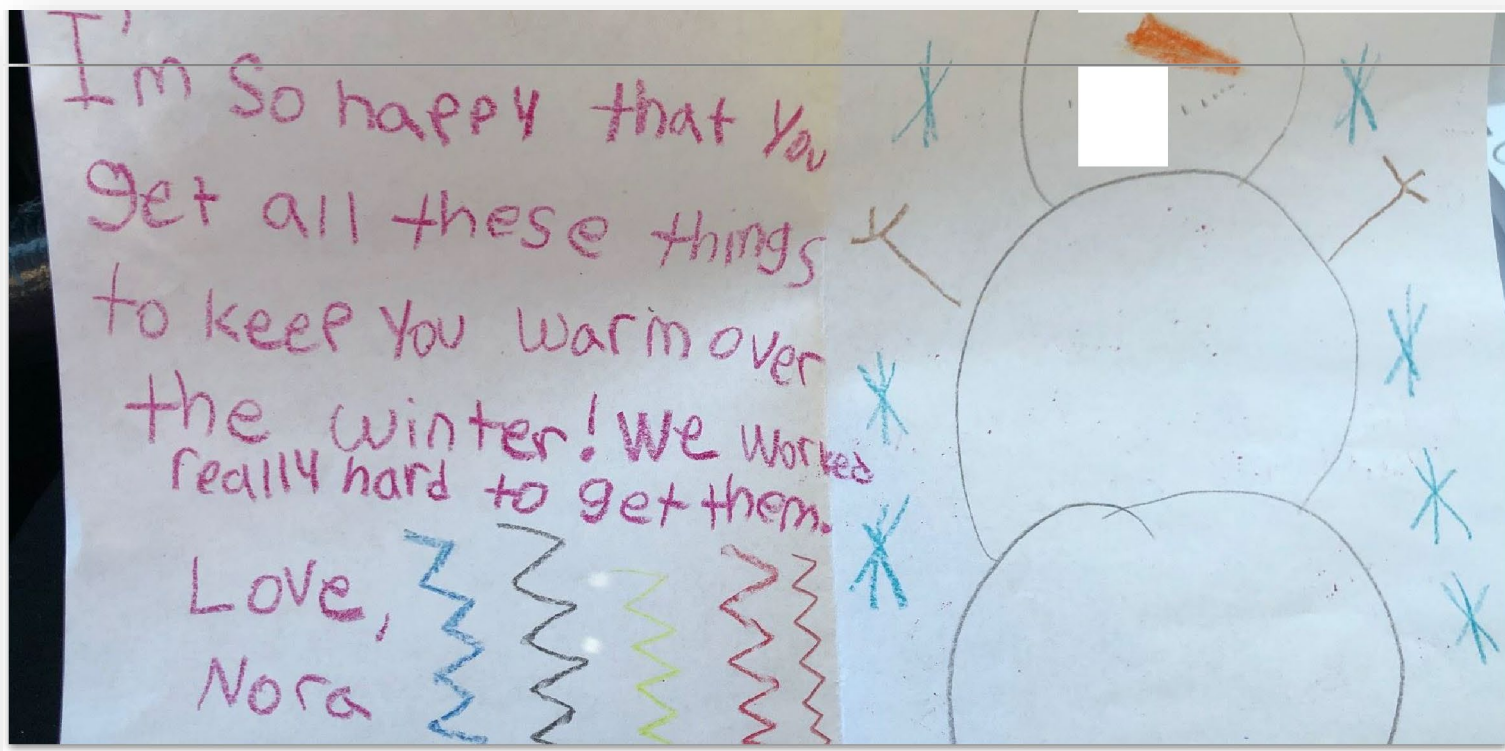


Dear Gianzyel,

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

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





# COATS, COATS & MORE COATS





# Hats & Mittens, Hats & Mittens and more Hats & Mittens!



# TESTIMONIALS

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

~ Jackie St. Martin Family

*"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 greatly appreciated! 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

*"We received a package from  
school and we are very grateful.  
(The student) is over excited and  
I bless you all for that gift.  
Thank you thank you thank you.  
Kind regards, (Mom)"*

~ Worcester Arts Magnet School



Worcester Public Schools

# COATS for KIDS

*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](mailto:vecchio@worcesterschools.net)**