



Memorandum

Date: August 8, 2018
To: Clothing Our Kids Volunteers
From: John F Smith, President
Subject: Year End Wrap Up

Dear Friends;

Please imagine for a moment one of your first days of the new school year. Remember the new clothes you got for that important first day? The new shoes, the new shirt, dress, skirt, or sweater? I know many of us looked mighty sharp on the first day as we went off determined to study harder (that didn't always work out for me), and to meet friends. Now imagine a child with no new shoes, maybe no shoes at all, no new shirt, dress, or skirt because his or her parents didn't have the resources to buy them or worse, maybe the parent wasn't even around. Sad to say but, that's the reality for too many kids who live in our Sussex County community.

As you know, it's COK's mission to assist those kids to have appropriate school clothing and to boost their self-esteem so they can achieve excellence in their classroom and I thank you for being the power behind the Clothing Our Kids organization.

Our 2017-2018 operating year came to an end June 30th and at this time I'd like to share with you some of your achievements. Most importantly you reached another bench-mark by making it possible for COK to deliver over 21,000 articles of clothing to 3,900 kids in our area. Those deliveries are the highest in number you've attained in our seven-year history. What can I say but, "thank You".

The past year turned out to be our best fundraising year ever. We reached this milestone because of the generosity of businesses and donors from all walks of life; Corporations, Foundations, Sussex County, Churches, Individual donors and, of course, our annual golf tournament that netted nearly \$60,000.

I'd like to acknowledge our donors and thank them for their financial support. We can't do it alone, it takes a village so thank you to all who made this year so great:

Corporate donors (\$13,905) include; IBM, Mountaire Farms, Delaware Community Bank, Delaware Electric, and Dogfish Brewery

Foundation Grants (\$29,770) include; Freeman Foundation, Tidemark Federal Credit Union, Schell Family Foundation, Draper Foundation, Nanticoke Rotary Foundation, and the Rehoboth Lewes Rotary Foundation.

Individual Donors (\$20,997); Too many donors to mention here but I thank you all.

Group Donations (\$23,394) include; Saint Edmond Parish, Lewes Presbyterian Church, St Martha Church, Sandy Pages Book Club, All Saints Thrift Store, Brick Hotel and many others.

Sussex County Council / Two grants totaling \$4,775.

Thanks again to all who made this year's fundraising the best we've had.

Lastly, there's a fact you should know if someone asks you this question:

"How does COK use my contribution?"

The answer to this question is that during the 2017-2018 operating year 90% of contributed dollars went directly to our mission which is to help clothe the underprivileged children of Sussex County. The remaining 10% went to Fundraising and Administrative costs. These are admirable percentages and they could not have been achieved without you.

Once again, I just want you to know how much your work has helped so many kids in our area and how proud I am of you for making it happen. You remind me that, "When you help others achieve their dreams, you will achieve yours" (Les Brown)

Finally, I want you to know there are a few upcoming events on COK's schedule that you may want to attend so please mark your calendar for these dates:

September 24, 2018 - The Fifth Annual COK Golf Outing at The Peninsula Golf and CC

October 9, 2018 – Dine and Donate at Bethany Blues, 18385 Coastal Hwy, Lewes DE

November 13, 2018 - Dine and Donate at Black Hall Hitch, 52 Rehoboth Ave, Rehoboth Beach DE

Going forward I'm planning to send a report like this to you on a quarterly basis. Please let me know if you have a question or comment you'd like discussed in future reports. In addition, if you know the story or have pictures of a child who benefited from COK's mission, let me know so we can share that story or picture with everyone. What about a co-worker who you think deserves special recognition? Please let me know who that person is so he or she can be acknowledged. I'd really appreciate your input.

So long for now, thank you for all you do and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

John

"Offering an opportunity for every child to achieve success."



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