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CLOTHING OUR KIDS (COK) PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 15 POVERTY RATE AMONG CHILDREN MORE THAN DOUBLED WHILE MEDIAN INCOME FELL 2.3 PERCENT IN THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR

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Poverty increased sharply last year in the U.S., particularly among children, as living costs rose and federal programs that provided aid to families during the pandemic were allowed to expire according to the Census Bureau as widely reported in the press. The poverty rate rose to 12.4 percent in 2022 from 7.8 percent in 2021, the largest one-year jump on record. Poverty among children more than doubled, to 12.4 percent, from a record low of 5.2 percent the year prior. Those figures are according to the Supplemental Poverty Measure.

Hence, clothing purchases are up considerably at Clothing Our Kids to keep up with the demand as Sussex County households struggle to clothe their kids for the school year. Requests for clothing started to come in before the Center was fully staffed and stocked for Fall. The COK figures through September's end included 6,065 articles of clothing provided to 1.144 kids. Sadly, most orders came from Homeless Liaisons. It continues to be COK's Mission to offer an opportunity for every child to achieve excellence no matter what their family's financial situation might be. Helping kids learn while feeling good about themselves is COK's number one priority. Our approach is simple: Let Them Dress for Success.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." – Frederick Douglass.

