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CLOTHING OUR KIDS (COK) PRESS RELEASE – JANUARY 17 ENDING 2023 AND STARTING 2024, COK IS BLESSED WITH THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” wrote Margaret Mead.

Our Sussex County Community is changing our local world by providing an opportunity for every child to achieve excellence. Clothing Our Kids (COK) had a great Holiday Season with donations totaling over \$22,000 in grants and donations from businesses and individuals. That generosity is continuing in 2024 with contributions benefitting the Sussex County School Kids in need. These funds come at a time when the demand for essential school clothing is at an all-time high. Incredibly in calendar year 2023, COK supplied nearly **4,000 additional** items of clothing to the Head Start, Elementary and Middle School kids in need as compared to 2022.

Our Mission boils down to providing a better life through education for kids who did not ask to be born into less-than-ideal situations. The Los Angeles Superintendent of Schools recently said that education is key to lifting children out of homelessness and poverty. He was one of those kids. And as Founder Mary Rio said: “It’s not just about new clothes, it’s about a new life.”

According to our recent financial report, COK has spent over **\$30,000 more** on clothing in the current school year – August to December since orders came in earlier than ever not just from schools, but from family shelters and emergency family relief services – than during the same period of 2022. **Thanks especially to those contributing over \$1,000 during this Holiday Season (December 1 to January 15), including: Contributions in Grey Branson’s name, the Chichester duPont Foundation, Community Lutheran Church, Cripple Creek Fairway Villas Community, Michael Cunningham and Peter Bussa, Delaware Curative Workshop, Draper Bless Our Children Fund, Monica Dwyer, Jane and Neal Mayer in honor of Guy Borges, St. Martha’s Church, and Sussex County Council Grants.**

Clothing Our Kids is an Official 501(c)(3) Approved organization whose Mission is to improve the lives of at-risk Head Start, Elementary and Middle School children by providing them with appropriate school clothing. In Sussex County, many children do not have essential school clothing which has a direct negative impact on their self-esteem, their school attendance, their ability to learn, and can lead to bullying. It is our goal to assist these youngsters with an equal start in their early education and help them become successful students.

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

