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CLOTHING OUR KIDS (COK) PRESS RELEASE – JUNE 12, 2024 TCC GIVES/VERIZON LEARNED OF COK’S EXPANSION INTO HIGH SCHOOLS AND CAME THROUGH WITH MUCH NEEDED FUNDING

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At the recent COK Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Cape Henlopen High School (CHHS) Social Worker Lisa Williams shared: “We are tracking homeless students and have funding for emergency shelter and food but NOTHING for clothing. All at the school are extremely thankful for what COK does for these kids.” That’s the reality of what most Sussex County High Schools are dealing with. The Cape Henlopen School District alone has 148 homeless students and is tracking more than 2000 coming from low-income families.

COK visited CHHS a few months ago and we just cannot cease supporting these youngsters after they graduate Middle School. So many are filled with hopelessness for their future. Getting a good education is the key to changing the trajectory of their lives. Appropriate clothing helps them feel good about attending and staying in school. Hence, a pilot program was approved by the COK Board to go slowly in this space since the expense is great if we wish to support all 14 High Schools in our County. We anticipate spending at least \$5,000 to \$10,000 per school bringing all on board over the next three years.

Our amazing benefactors at TCC GIVES (Verizon stores) heard our story and will be awarding the first \$5,000 in a Grant to match COK’s \$5,000 and cover the students in need at Cape Henlopen High School. This isn’t the first time TCC has helped our kids. In the past the folks at TCC District 7 under the leadership of Zach Hess and Jim Unsworth have organized backpack and sneaker drives and partnered with COK on a breakfast for Teachers in some of the schools we serve.

According to TCC Program Director Courtney Kibble: “We love your spirit and the relationship between your nonprofit and your TCC employee sponsor in District 7. Thank you for all the work you do to make your community a great place to live. We hope this shows that we can make our communities even better together.”

For additional information regarding Clothing Our Kids (COK), to donate, or learn more about our annual Golf Outing, please go to www.clothingourkids.org. Kindly pass on the good work of COK by sharing this Press Release and liking our Social Media posts with your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

