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January 1, 2025

Dear Volunteers, Donors, Sponsors, and Friends,

On behalf of the students most in need, thank you all so very much for your time, support and talent in 2024. We cannot help our KIDS without your help.

Now in our twelfth year, it is still clear that the need for school clothing assistance in Sussex County is significant. One School Homeless Liaison put it very well: "We have emergency funds for food and shelter, but we do **not** have any funds for clothing". Over the past eleven plus years, COK has distributed more than 238,000 articles of clothing to over 38,000 children and is able to meet that demand for new school clothing thanks to your continued support of COK's Mission.

The year 2024 came with many challenges which will continue into 2025. These include supporting three Sussex County High Schools thanks to Robyn Dagen and Marilyn Kray with larger size clothing being more expensive, and we will add two more High Schools in the coming school year. Late in 2024 we answered numerous calls for clothing from family shelters and emergency relief services. Clearly, the need is great. We have re-doubled our efforts to reach out to all Head Start and Preschool programs while keeping up with the Elementary and Middle School demand thanks to Karen Borges and her Managers JeanAnn Hudson, Sue Marquart, Kim Plum, Jane Smeland, Sandy Wofgang, and the rest of the group at the Center.

Thanks also to Mike Wezel and his team for managing a very successful Golf Tournament, and to Monica Anthenelli and Diane Poletti for their efforts coordinating quite a few new Clothing Drives last year. On many levels and in many ways, we are all "behind the scenes" when helping our KIDS. Having the School Nurse/Counselor/Teacher/Social Worker present the clothes is a big deal. Some have said it makes them feel so very good to see a smile on the students' faces, and they feel like superheroes.

COK has come a long way in twelve years but none of our work would have been possible without support from each and every one of you. So, for your kindness and for expanding hope and promise to those who have so little: Thank You So Very Much from me personally and the COK Board of Directors

Sincerely,

Bob Blouin, President  
It's all about the Kids!

***As Founder Mary Rio recently said: "It's not just about new clothes, it's about a new life."***

