



Contact:
Robbie Howell
Communications Manager
704.371.3001 x163
communicationsmanager@crisisassistance.org

Dave Miller
Director of Operations
704.371.3001 x136
dmiller@crisisassistance.org

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MEDIA ALERT

OUTPOURING OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT BRINGS RECORD NUMBER OF COATS & BLANKETS TO CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY – CMS STUDENTS TO BENEFIT

Thanks to an outpouring of generosity, Crisis Assistance Ministry has received a record number of coats and blankets to help people in crisis this winter. With an extraordinarily cold winter bearing down, items were received just in time for the January/February cold snap. Neighborhoods, faith groups, civic organizations, school children, local businesses and others responded enthusiastically to a community appeal providing a record breaking 15,600 items to help those in need.

“The response from the community has exceeded our expectations” says Free Store Volunteer Director Julia Setzer. “On behalf of those who will be having a warmer winter, we say thanks.”

These coats and blankets are available to anyone who visits the Free Store. Also, to ensure that every child in Mecklenburg County can get the coat they need, Crisis Assistance Ministry is partnering with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System and inviting all teachers to come to the Free Store to shop for their students who may otherwise go without a winter coat. Teachers are asked to come to Crisis Assistance Ministry on February 4-5 between 12:30-4:30 pm to pick out their items.

Key Coat Drive Partners include Burlington Coat Factory, The Charlotte Observer, WSOC Steve’s Coats for Kids Campaign (weatherman Steve Udelson), Ashley Furniture Home Store, Queen City Appliances, Whitehead and Associates, Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library, Charlotte Fire Department and Ballas Chiropractic.

The only store of its kind in Mecklenburg County, The Free Store provides clothing and household items free of charge to families in need, enabling these families to spend their money on other basic essentials such as food and utilities. The Free Store is located at 500-A Spratt Street and is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Crisis Assistance Ministry provides emergency financial assistance to prevent evictions and utility disconnections, as well as clothing and household items free of charge to people who are struggling financially. Information is available at www.crisisassistance.org.