

Jan. 23/ 2023

Dear Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of C.O.A.T. Association. As you may remember we are a local non profit that supply community members in need with warm winter wear. Our group is totally volunteer. Please allow me to give you all an overview of our 2022 season. We started collecting coats in September. Lenos Stop Shop has been generous enough to act as a donation drop off for a few years now. We had a representative at the Mt. Uniacke and Elmsdale hazardous waste collection days collecting coats and handing out a leaflet to get our message out. Oct 22 was our second annual " Big Give". We partner with schools Plus and collect and distribute used clothing in the interest of circular economy as well as providing a way for families to outfit themselves with no cost. This year we were able to help over 70 families on this one day. The municipality had a very successfully run winter warming event and many items were collected and distributed. A self-selection space was set up in 5 places for people to access coats.

- 1) Elmsdale Family Resource Centre
- 2) Caring and Sharing food bank
- 3) Indian brook Community Centre
- 4) Mt Uniacke Library
- 5) Kennetcook area food bank ..Latties Brook

All in all, over 300 coats and winter outfits were given out to date. Winter was late coming so into February we are still giving out coats. While our donations from the public cover a lot of it we were required to buy quite a few things to meet all of our requests. Financial report is included.

The use of the space at the Old Elmsdale School has made things much easier as I can no longer run this operation out of my home. It's grown much too large for that. The remainder of our goods are stored neatly as asked and we swept up before turning in the key. It is our hope that we can continue to use this space going forward. It is very much appreciated.

Finally, our financial needs. Last year was our first time asking for funding. We were happy the receive \$2000. This made it possible for us to buy things we needed to meet need. Not everything is donated by the public. We currently provide socks and underwear that I buy new. We have provided these to 7 different area schools. Many coats in sizes we needed and also snow suits were purchased. Often at thrift store to make our money go further. We ask again this year to consider us for the same amount.

It was our pleasure this past season to include Kennetcook and Mt Uniacke and hopefully going forward word will catch on there like it has in the corridor area. It is always our pleasure to keep all of our citizens warm. Thank you for your consideration of our request. Any amount of financial aid means the world to us and allows us to be able to continue our labour of love.

Sincerely,

Catherine Miller

President

Community Offering Assistance Together Association.