
THE CLOTHES STORE

Buffalo Public School #18

Buffalo, New York

The School #18 community worked collaboratively to coordinate a clothing drive for students and their families. What started as a kind gesture to help a new family in the school who moved from a much warmer climate, developed into a clothing outlet with racks, boxes, and displays located in the Parent Room.

Community members have collaborated with the school to provide students with basic necessities. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo donates a mitten tree every year. Students in need receive mittens, scarves, hats, and winter coats. Based on the need and success of the mitten tree, staff members generated donations from the Country Parkway School and St. Mary's School. Books were also donated for the children to take home. A donation from one business partner purchased two thousand dollars worth of gently used clothing.

The clothing drive developed into an ongoing program that supplies clothing to students in need. The program brings parents into the building, providing the school staff with an opportunity to acquaint them with other programs in the school. The relationship between School #18 and St. Mary's even expanded into a student exchange program where a seventh grade class from each school teamed together for activities in each building for two days.

The beauty of this program is that helping one family sparked a school-community program that now benefits a larger number of students and their families.

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