



1 Fourth Street  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CHESTER RESIDENTS RECEIVE NEW WINTER COATS

**Chester, PA** – In an effort to provide Chester children with new coats this winter season, the City of Chester started distributing hundreds of coats this week to residents. The new winter coats for Chester residents were provided by Operation Warm and solely sponsored by the Auto Dealers Caring for Kids Foundation through its *Driving Away the Cold* initiative at Chester City Hall on Saturday, October 17, 2009.

“Many Chester children don’t have warm coats to get them through the winter,” said Mayor Wendell N. Butler, Jr. “Along with providing the invaluable gift of warmth with these coats, Operation Warm and the Auto Dealers have provided Chester children with the gift of acceptance, self-esteem and pride,” he said.

Starting Wednesday, October 21 at the William Penn homes, Councilwoman Marrea Walker-Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation, and members of her staff, distributed several hundred coats to the tenants. **The distribution will continue today, Thursday, October 22, at 4:30 pm** at Matopos Hills, 1350 West 9th Street, and Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 at Chatham Estates, 1701 Patrick St.

A lifelong resident of Chester and former tenant of the William Penn Housing Projects, Councilwoman Walker-Smith is well aware of the needs of Chester families, especially during the colder months. “A warm coat is a necessity that no child should go without,” said Councilwoman Walker-Smith, “Thanks to the donation of these coats, we can rest assured that no child in Chester will go cold this winter.”

In order to have received coats for the Driving Away the Cold event on Saturday, pre-registration was required through schools within the Chester Upland School District. Superintendent Dr. Gregory Thornton along with CUSD staff spearheaded the registration process at the schools. Prior to the distribution, charter schools in Chester received an allocation of coats, which the schools will distribute to their students this week.

In an effort to better serve the residents of Chester, Operation Warm teamed together with the Mayor’s Office, the Rotary Club of Chester and CUSD, along with CityTeam Ministries, ChesPenn Health Services, and Community Action Agency of Delaware County, to collaboratively host this coat distribution event. More than 60 volunteers assisted with the setup of the event and the distribution of the coats, including Chester Water Authority employees and students from Widener University, Smedley Health Academy and Chester High School.

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