

## **More than 1,000 Jackson County residents have signed up to receive free winter clothing through Warm the Children**

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By **Tarryl Jackson | Jackson Citizen Patriot**

More than 1,000 Jackson County residents have signed up to receive free winter clothing for their children through this year's Warm the Children campaign. However, organizers say they have not yet received enough donations to serve all those children.

### **How to help**

**Give money:** To make a donation, send a check to the Warm the Children Fund in care of the Jackson Citizen Patriot, 214 S. Jackson St., Jackson, MI 49201.

**Give time:** To be a volunteer shopper, go to **[www.jjwl.org](http://www.jjwl.org)** or email your name, address and phone number to **[warmthechildren@jjwl.org](mailto:warmthechildren@jjwl.org)**. The office number is 780-4640.

"A lot of folks are falling off their unemployment benefits and losing other benefits that they rely on," said Chris Kilmer, director of community programs at the Community Action Agency. "People are looking for ways to fulfill the needs of their households." Donations and volunteer shoppers are needed for Warm the Children to meet the demand of low-income children in the area. So far this week, the campaign has raised about \$53,000 — enough to serve about 660 children — and organizers anticipate a \$10,000 donation from Meijer.

Last year, about 700 children were able to receive winter clothing through Warm The Children. Every year, the campaign gives families an \$80 voucher per child for coats, hats, mittens, sweaters, pajamas and other articles of clothing from Meijer. The campaign is a partnership of the Community Action Agency, which selects recipients; the Jackson Junior Welfare League, which connects recipients with volunteer shoppers; and the Citizen Patriot, which collects the donations and promotes the campaign. Jen Ganzel of the Jackson Junior Welfare League said Warm the Children is a great way for the community to get involved by volunteering their time for families in need. "We can always use more shoppers," she said. "If we don't use you this year, we can always use you next year."