

Warm the Children program seeks additional donations to help keep local kids warm



Many children will get warm coats during the first day of shopping for the Warm the Children campaign at the Meijer store on Airport Road in Jackson on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013. (J. Scott Park | MLive.com) (J. Scott Park)

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JACKSON, MI — While many children already have appropriate clothes for when the winter chill finally hits, there are still many without them and they need your help.

[Warm the Children](#) is seeking additional donations to help 150 children who need winter clothes this year.

It may be unusually warm right now for being the middle of December, but Michigan residents know that can change at a moment's notice, leaving children without a winter coat in a terrible predicament.

"A lot of kids that come, leave with the coats they buy, because they simply don't have one," said program coordinator Kate Lambert Lee. "Kids have come to get new winter coats wearing rain slicks, coats with gaping holes or nothing at all. They truly appreciate their new coat when they pick it out."

The program, organized by the Community Action Agency, the [Jackson Junior Welfare League](#) and with the support of Meijer and the Jackson Citizen Patriot, helps disadvantaged children acquire new winter clothing by taking them on a special shopping trip with a volunteer shopper and some money donated to the program.

On the established shopping day, Meijer sets up an area of its store for the kids filled with winter clothing for ages birth to 16 and each child is given \$80 to pick out everything they need to stay warm.



"We really appreciate Meijer's assistance in this," Lee said. "We've had shopping days where we brought through more than 200 kids. I don't think we could have managed it without their assistance."

So far, the program has helped 705 Jackson children buy new winter clothes with more than \$56,000 in donations used.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Community Action Agency at 1214 Greenwood Ave., Jackson, MI 49203, or online for a small service fee on the [league's website](#).

For more information on the program, visit caajlh.org.