



SAMPLE PROJECT IDEA SHEET:

ORGANIZE A CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

Many children in your community may be faced with a lack of basic needs, such as adequate shoes and clothing. Whether they live with families who are facing economic burdens, homelessness or living in the aftermath of disasters that have destroyed their homes, your help is needed to provide children and youth with their most essential needs.

How Lions Clubs Can Help

- Step 1:** Identify organizations in your community that are already providing services to children and youth to determine which organization would be willing to accept your collected clothing. You may also wish to contact places of worship, schools and women's shelters regarding their needs for donated clothing
- Step 2:** Check with the organization(s) to see if there are specific requirements or needs; for example:
- Will gently used clothing be accepted as well as new clothing?
 - In what condition should the items be delivered? (clean, mended, folded, on hangers, ready for wearing)
 - Are there items that will not be accepted?
 - Is there a need for specific sizes or items? For example, are sweaters and cold-weather coats and hats needed? Are shoes for toddlers – teenagers needed?
- Step 3:** Select a location for your clothing drive. Successful places to conduct clothing drives include schools, office buildings, places of worship or community centers. Secure permission to hold your clothing drive in these locations.
- Step 4:** Begin planning your clothing drive. You may wish to extend your clothing drive for 2-3 weeks. Enlist the aid of your nearby Leo club. Contact friends, co-workers, neighbors to help. Choose a name or theme for your clothing drive and set a goal for how many items you want to collect.
- Step 5:** Promote your clothing drive. This allows community residents time to select the clean, wearable clothing they wish to donate or buy specific items. Let the community know which organization(s) will be receiving your collections. Enlist the help of your Club Public Relations Chair to promote this event.
- Decorate collection containers for the donated shoes/clothing.
 - Place flyers or posters in highly visible places.
 - Use newspaper ads, phone calls and e-mails to promote your clothing drive.
 - Announce your clothing drive on your club's Web site.
 - Remember to send follow up reminders.

- Step 6:** Collect your clothes for children and youth in need. Be sure to have an adequate number of boxes and storage space. Collect for consecutive days, preferably for a duration of 2-3 weeks. Spread the word! Enlist the help of non-Lions and Leos. Make sure to clearly mark your donation boxes and place them in safe locations to avoid accident/injury.
- Step 7:** After your clothing drive ends, sort the donations according to the organization's requirements and needs. Make a note of the number of full boxes of clothing and/or shoes that you've collected.
- Step 8:** Deliver your collected shoes/clothing; make arrangements to drop off the donations to the organization you selected. Your clothing can then be distributed to children in need.
- Step 9:** Send "thank you" letters to individuals or organizations who participated and publicize your successful project in the community newspapers. You may want to recap the types of items that were collected and donated.
- Step 10:** Celebrate your club's accomplishments. Issue certificates of appreciation to members and volunteers.

What to Donate

Clean, wearable, usable children's clothing that is free from stains and tears.

Share your success!

Please tell us about your project by visiting the Association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org. Just type "Lions Children First" in the search box to find an easy, on-line survey for your convenience.



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