



PW-16

Reusing winter clothing

The city of Vacaville, California (89,000), encourages its residents to “Give Winter Garb a 2nd Chance” by donating their used winter coats, jackets, and blankets. The used winter coats are made available for free to anyone who needs them. Not only does the program provide much-needed warm winter clothing to those with low incomes, but it reduces the amount of material that goes to the landfill.

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Implementation notes

Leadership/staffing The program is directed by a program coordinator, who spends most of the months of November and December on the project. The coats and blankets are sorted by volunteers.

Timeline The program began in 1999. Coats are collected during one week in November and are distributed to the needy in December.

Budget/funding The main cost is the staffing required to coordinate the program and to collect the donated items. During the program’s first three years, local businesses donated \$30,000 worth of dry cleaning, newspaper advertising, and other services.

Program description Every November, the program is promoted through newspaper ads and inserts in utility bills. Residents are instructed to leave their coats or jackets in good condition in a labeled bag beside their trashcans on their regular collection day during collection week. Collection bins are also placed at several businesses and schools. The items are collected by the city’s trash trucks and taken to a collection site, where they are sorted by volunteers, who place the clothing on donated-clothing racks. The program coordinator first attempts to match donated items to items on the Christmas wish lists of needy children. The remaining coats and jackets are brought to the city’s three neighborhood centers for distribution during their annual holiday parties, when guests may select any coat they need from the racks, free of charge. The small number of coats that are not distributed are donated to a local nonprofit that serves needy families.



Results The program typically collects 1,500 to 2,000 coats a year, which diverts up to five tons of items from the landfill. In addition to providing much-needed winter coats to needy families, the program helps educate the community about the importance of reusing items instead of disposing of them.

Give
Winter
Garb



A program
collecting
winter coats
and
blankets
ONLY
for redistribution to
those in need.

a
2nd
chance

**For those in need of Winter Garb,
please visit the following locations:**

Acacia Neighborhood Center

461A Acacia Street. Fri., Dec. 13 3pm-6pm 449-6074

Mariposa Neighborhood Center

1625 Alamo Dr. Fri., Dec. 13 3pm-7pm 449-6012

Trower Neighborhood Center

100 Holly Ln. Sat., Dec. 14 9am-2pm 449-5522

Sponsored by the City of Vacaville in partnership
with Vacaville's local schools and businesses.



Need more info? Call 469-6509 or www.vacavillerecycling.com.