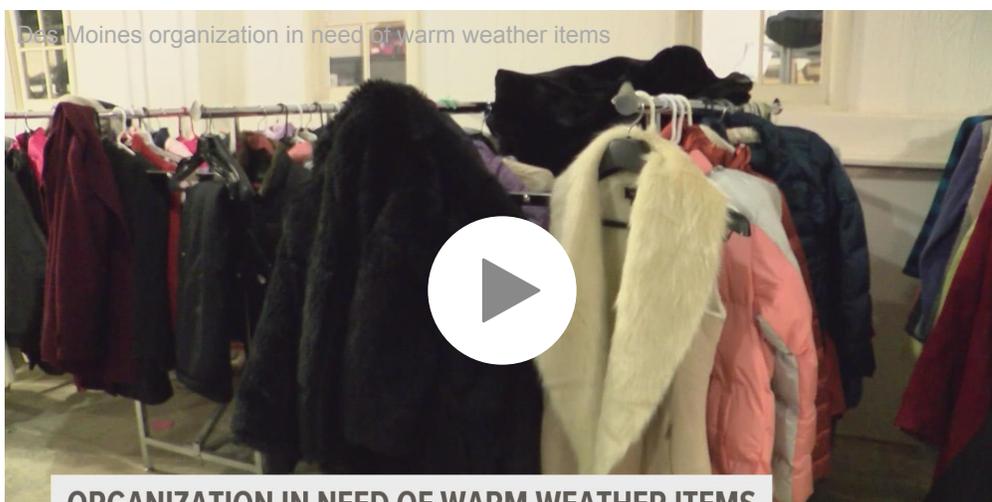


COMMUNITY

Organization helping homeless youth in need of warm weather items

Donations are down this year at Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. So, they are asking for donations to help keep homeless youth in the area warm this winter.



Author: Khalil Maycock
Published: 11:54 AM CST December 7, 2021
Updated: 11:54 AM CST December 7, 2021



DES MOINES, Iowa — As [temperatures begin to drop](#), [Iowa Homeless Youth Centers](#), wants to make sure homeless youth in the area stay warm.

To do so, Toby O'Berry said they are gathering warm weather clothing and gear.

They are in need of is coats, hats, gloves and things like tents.

O'Berry, the center's director, said the reason they are asking for the items is that their warm clothing supply is low, partly due to the pandemic.

"We're not really able to connect with corporations to do donation drives like we were prior to the pandemic," O'Berry said. "So we're just not getting the surplus of critical supplies."

He noted getting the supply is important because the organization serves around 650 clients a year, ages 16-24.

This is either through their emergency beds program, drop-in services or helping clients find apartments.

Part of the drop-in services includes the youth being able to get food, toiletries and clothes they need, which this time of the year would be winter gear.

RELATED: [Why you might have a harder time visiting Santa Claus this year](#)

RELATED: [Clive child gets clubhouse of his dreams thanks to Make-a-Wish Iowa, Weitz Construction](#)

Caleb Kirkpatrick, a peer support advocate and a former IHYC client who also used to be homeless, said getting winter gear is always helpful, especially to the youth who have not been able to get permanent housing yet.

The clothes help them stay warm as they brace temperatures outside.

"They sleep in those alleys that have the vents to keep warm, even though the air isn't super great for you," Kirkpatrick said. "They just, I mean, you do what it takes to keep warm and alive around here and I think it's super important to have stuff around here to offer them."

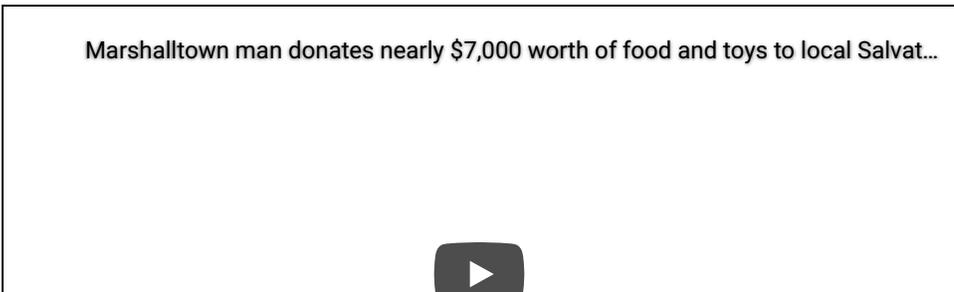
When he was still getting help from IHYC, Kirkpatrick told Local 5 the clothing donations meant the world to him and he knows it will mean the world to others.

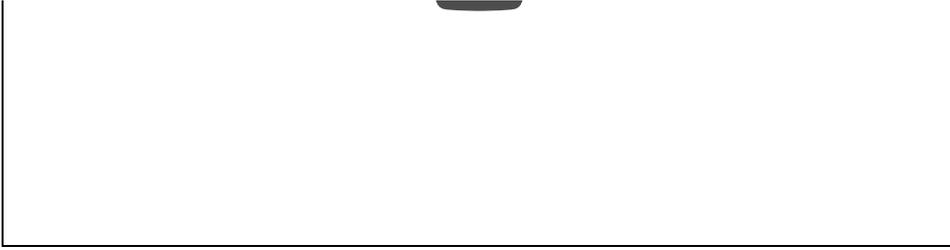
"I just think people should know the clients that come here are good people who are down on their luck," Kirkpatrick said.

If you want to donate warm-weather clothing or other items like tents or toiletries, you can do so at 612 Locust Street in downtown Des Moines.

- ▶ [Download the We Are Iowa app](#)
- ▶ [Sign up for Local 5's "5 Things to Know" email newsletter](#)
- ▶ [Subscribe to Local 5 News on YouTube](#)

WATCH: Marshalltown man donates nearly \$7,000 worth of food and toys to local Salvation Army





You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Doctor Tells: Do You Have Too Much Belly Fat? (Eat This Before Bed)

Gundry MD

Where are accredited investors putting their money in 2021?

OurCrowd

These Cars Are So Loaded It's Hard to Believe They're So Cheap

Luxury SUVs | Search Ads

New Volkswagen's Finally On Sale

All Things Auto

The Best Face Mask for Air Travel in 2022

Sonovia

LOADING NEXT ARTICLE...