

HELP A STUDENT IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A DONATION TO THE ANGEL FUND

November 2, 2017 (White Bear Lake, MN)--The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation (WBLAEF) has been busy collecting donated winter wear and financial contributions from area businesses and individuals—and the timing couldn't be better, as cold weather sets in. As part of the launch of their annual Holiday Angels program, WBLAEF is working hard to boost support from the community to fill the shelves of their 'Closet' as well as increase monetary donations to the Angel Fund. The Closet is a needs-based resource in the district for families in crisis or having difficulty making ends meet. Shelves at The Closet are filled with all types of clothing, outerwear, boots, shoes, and blankets. Families can make an appointment to come and 'shop' for items they need, at no cost. The Closet exists entirely by donations from the community as well as supplemental support from WBLAEF's Angel Fund—an emergency fund that helps families purchase needed items that may not be available at The Closet. Funds are made available in the form of gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart, Cub, area gas stations, etc.

The Closet has helped hundreds of students and their families over the years. Examples have included families who have lost their homes due to natural disaster or fire, grandparents faced with unexpected full-time care for grandchildren, or children without basic winter gear. Sometimes, a struggling student simply needs financial help to be able to purchase clothing items for a school choir concert, or a part-time job interview.

A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to a generous community

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of local businesses and individuals, WBLAEF is able to continue to meet the needs of struggling families and students. This week, the White Bear Lake Rotary Club donated \$400 and winter wear items to The Closet, and students in the National Junior Honor Society at Central Middle School dropped off mittens and gloves they had collected as part of a service project. In September, BearTown Bar and Grill held a month-long campaign to collect new or gently used winter boots for The Closet.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Make someone's holiday special—designate a Holiday Angel with your donation

Between November 13 and January 31, the White Bear Lake City Hall will be a designated drop-off site for new or gently used winter items for students. Drop off winter wear of all sizes during normal business hours. In addition, anyone can make a tax-deductible financial donation to the Angel Fund at www.wblaef.org. There, you can designate your donation in honor of a 'Holiday Angel' in your life—a special loved one, teacher, coach, mentor, neighbor, etc. Your designated Holiday Angel will receive a hand-written card indicating your donation in their honor. It's a unique and memorable way to touch the lives of needy families, while commemorating someone who has had an impact in your life.