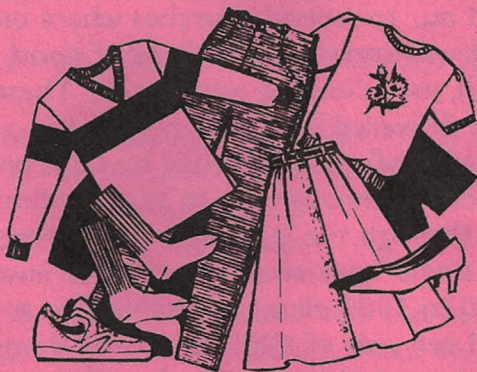

CLOTHING

GIVE-AWAY



an Outreach Ministry
of
Geiger Memorial Brethren Church
2543 West Lehigh Avenue
Phila., PA 19132-3207

Rev. Anthony DiBenedetto, Jr.
Pastor
215-229-2967

Clothes Give-Aways

What are they?

An opportunity for neighborhood families to obtain free clothing for the members of their families. Each person is able to take a specific number of garments, as determined by our staff, according to the number of items on hand at the time of the "give-away".

How they came to Be

About 1990 it became evident that people in the neighborhood were in need of help in obtaining good used clothing as a gift. Calls from local schools confirmed that the need existed. Calls went out to several churches where our work was known. Collections of good, clean, used clothing were made. These were delivered to the church. The "Give-away" was advertised by signs on the doors, through rehab organizations, and through the local schools. During any single "give-away" we can give away 2000 to 3500 pieces of clothing; or a total per year of 8000 to 10,000 items. Left over clothing is stored until the next give-away. Surplus garment are donated to a local mission thrift shop.

Collection of Clothes

Garments are received September through April. Space is not available to store clothing during the summer months due to other programs. Clothes

are received from individuals, churches, and other organizations. Most clothing is delivered to the church, but on occasion pick-ups are made when possible. Solicitation for clothes goes out through our mailings and by word of mouth.

Preparation of Clothes

The garments received are inspected as to cleanliness, suitability, need of repair, etc. Acceptable clothes are packed in cartons and labeled as to contents. Men's trousers, Ladies' blouses, children's clothes, men's shoes, etc. Clothes that need major repair, are dirty, or worn out are discarded. About 15% of garments received are discarded for the above reasons.

How often are the Give-Aways held?

"Give-aways" are held three times a year: in October, Late January, and early April. these are the times when clothing seems to be most needed. Clothing is given away Monday afternoon through Thursday afternoon.

Advertising

Dates and times of "Give-aways" are posted on the Church doors and flyers are sent to the 7 schools located near us. Word of mouth also works well. On occasion flyers are distributed to homes near the church.

Our Method

Our Sunday School room is emptied of all chairs, and tables are set up in rows.

Coat racks are also pressed into service on which to hang coats, suits, and dresses.

Clothing is placed on tables by categories. Signs with dates and times are put up the previous week. When all is prepared, folks are allowed in on a first come, first served basis. Only five people are permitted in the building at a time for security reasons. People are free to browse among the clothes, picking out the number of garments allowed. The chosen items are taken to the desk lady who gets the persons name, address, and number of garments taken. As often as possible, a witness is given to those coming in. Lack of volunteers often hinders us from one on one sharing of the Gospel. When the desk lady puts the garments into a bag she also puts in a packet of Christian literature. The least that takes place is that the people are told that the clothes are given in the name of Jesus. We also have put a slip in the bag saying the same.

Purpose

As in all of our endeavors our main purpose is to reach out with the Gospel message of saving grace in Jesus to the least, the lost, and the confused.

Secondly, we want to assist our neighbors in making progress in meeting the physical needs of their families. We pray that those whom we serve will understand that we are giving them a hand up not a handout.

In addition, we desire to show that the church is a giving organization not a "gimme" organization which is what some believe about the church. We want to show that Christ gives, not demands that they give.

What's Needed

[1] Good, clean, men's, women's, children's clothing. Both winter and summer clothes are needed, but mostly cold weather. Men's clothes are always in short supply. Children's are next. There is always an abundance of women's clothing.

[2] 30 Gallon plastic trash bags

[3] 15 gallon tall plastic kitchen bags

How can you get involved

[1] Donate good, clean clothes

[2] Donate trash bags

[3] Offer to come and help put out clothes, dispense clothes, share the Gospel, or pack away clothes.

To deliver clothes or offer to help call:
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