



News Release

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Coats for Kids Program

(ALTUS, OKLAHOMA): As winter is quickly approaching, the days are getting shorter and the mornings are getting cooler. Children all over Jackson County are in need of your help to keep them warm with a winter coat. The inception of Coats for Kids began with the Altus Fire Department assisting the Salvation Army with distribution of holiday gifts and food baskets. When the firefighters repeatedly heard the need for children's coats, they quickly decided to ensure that no child would be left without the warmth of winter clothing.

Now in its 18th year, Coats for Kids is an annual community project that collects and distributes warm winter coats to eligible children and teenagers in Southwest Oklahoma. Each year the Altus Fire Department organizes and facilitates the details of Coats for Kids in an effort to bring the community together to ensure that the children of Jackson County stay warm. With the help of our businesses and community, donations are received each year to purchase new coats to be placed under the Christmas tree by those parents that qualify. This year, Coats for Kids is in need of over 200 coats. All of this is accomplished with the help of Salvation Army, ensuring that each and every coat goes to those in need.

This year, the Coats for Kids program is asking for monetary donations or new coats. With monetary donations, the Fire Department is able to purchase new coats at discounted prices with the assistance of local businesses. Altus Fire Chief Kyle Davis says, "All across Jackson County there are families struggling to meet their basic needs and we want to help. Every year the Salvation Army provides us with a list of the number of new coats needed. We believe every child deserves the gift of warmth. Our goal is to make sure that each child on that list receives a brand-new jacket to open Christmas morning."

If you would like to make a donation to Coats for Kids, you can stop by either the North Main Fire Station or Central Fire Station. For more information, contact the Altus Fire Department at (580) 481-2231.

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