



Homeless Gear & <SCHOOL> Presents



Greetings!

On behalf of all of us at Homeless Gear, we are thrilled to work with <SCHOOL> on our awareness-building campaign: Coins for Change! Homeless Gear is a Larimer County-based nonprofit that operates a continuum of programs. We also oversee the Murphy Center, a resource center in Larimer County that hosts 17 independent non-profits and nearly 40 services.

Why Host Coins for Change?

There are well over **1 million children** who are homeless in America and more than **10,000 individuals who are homeless in Colorado** right now. This does not include many of the individuals and families who are couch surfing, bouncing from place to place, staying at relatives' and staying in a hotel. But homelessness is not a distant issue: **Nearly 1,400 students in the Poudre and Thompson school districts experience homelessness each year.**

Through Coins for Change, students will collect loose change, practice leadership skills and build awareness about homelessness. The campaign provides an opportunity—for students, their households and our community—to become a part of the solution. It is a chance to understand homelessness in our community and our schools, show students the power they have in making a difference, *and* raise funds that support multi-level programs. In the words of one 5th grade student, it "...makes me want to do more for this community of mine."

GET EXCITED FOR <TIMEFRAME>! HERE ARE THIS YEAR'S COINS FOR CHANGE DETAILS:
This year's goal is \$1,500 in change...enough to help a family secure sustainable housing!

- **<1ST WEEK DATES>**: Check your pockets, ask your neighbors, search for change and bring in as many coins to your classroom! Remember, every coin counts. Beyond the "change" this change will bring to our community, the grade level that collects the most coins (by weight) will earn **<PRIZE>**!
- **<2ND WEEK DATES>**: Did you know that children who are homeless become sick about four more times than children who are not homeless? This month, you can help. Along with your coins, please bring hygiene and toiletry items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, etc.)
- **<3RD WEEK DATES>**: This time of the month, we'll collect socks and mittens – some of the high-needs items that help keep our little ones warm in the cold months!

Students will "track" their coin collection. As they collect change, they'll discuss what that change represents. For example, \$15 represents more than 10 non-perishable meals. \$50 represents an outdoor shelter (tent) and a blanket for someone sleeping outside and \$350 represents almost 20 backpacks for students that are experiencing homelessness. Students will have the opportunity to designate funds, depending on what Homeless Gear program(s) they want to support. It is true: Change creates change!

**Looking for Ways to Get Involved?
Volunteer at Our Next Children In Need Event!**

WHAT: Children in Need is a service event for children and families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. We distribute supplies and other agencies join us to provide a wide range of services such as eye exams, health screenings, children's books, art supplies, haircuts, resource information and more.

WHEN: December 9th 2017

VOLUNTEER SHIFT: 8:30am-12:00pm on Saturday



WHERE: Northside Aztlan Community Center at 112 E Willow Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Volunteers are the driving force behind our Children in Need events. As many as 150 volunteers participate in each event, serving as "personal shoppers" with families, distributing supplies, greeting attendees and more. Volunteers also help set-up the day before.

If you are looking for a one-time, direct service opportunity, this is a great way to get involved!

Please contact Pam at pam@homelessgear.org or (970) 829-1162 to sign-up.

Thank you for your support and, in turn, for your impact on homelessness in our community. We are excited to work with such an amazing group of students and to include you all in Coins for Change this year. We also can't wait to see students participate in Children in Need! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Sincerely,

Homeless Gear
coinsforchange@homelessgear.org
www.homelessgear.org/coinsforchange
(970) 587-3556

"If each of us tries to help the homeless and those in poverty in one small way, eventually we can end homelessness." -Sister Mary Alice Murphy