

COZY COATS FOR KIDS PROVIDES NEW COATS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

By Lynne Harris | Photos provided by Cozy Coats for Kids



“Kids Choose, We Deliver” is the motto for Boulder-based non-profit Cozy Coats for Kids (CCFK). Founder Nick Gromicko and current CCFK Executive Director Maggie Aey worked closely to officially make Cozy Coats for Kids a 501(c)3 charity organization in 2018.

“Before that, Nick Gromicko, Boulder entrepreneur, personally gave free coats to kids locally by partnering with police officers and schools. I was his assistant for many years, and together we saw how great the need was. We have now expanded the program nationwide,” Aey noted.

CCFK does not operate a coat drive where people collect and contribute a variety of coats for random distribution. Instead, the charity works year-round to raise funds for the Annual Coat Delivery Program, which provides children with the opportunity to order a brand-new winter coat in their favorite color and style. Its coat distribution occurs every year with the help of contributions from partner organizations.

“We partner with a variety of nonprofit organizations nationwide to coordinate orders for children who need our help.

Every coat is delivered completely free of charge to our partners and the children and families who receive them. We work with schools, churches, community centers, social service agencies, other nonprofit organizations and home inspectors,” explained Aey.

CCFK is unique in that each coat must be ordered by a partner for a specific child. The partners submit orders on behalf of the children in their community. Beyond gifting a brand-new winter coat, the charity focuses on keeping a child warm and healthy while taking pressure off families for from basic necessities in hardships.

“It’s especially fulfilling to hear from the children when they know their coat was chosen specifically for them based on their color and style preferences they communicated. It helps children feel valued and supported, so they can thrive and achieve their goals,” Aey said.

Aey has been with CCFK since its inception in 2018. Gromicko also remains committed fundraising and offering his time and money to help the charity grow. Now as International Association of Certified Home

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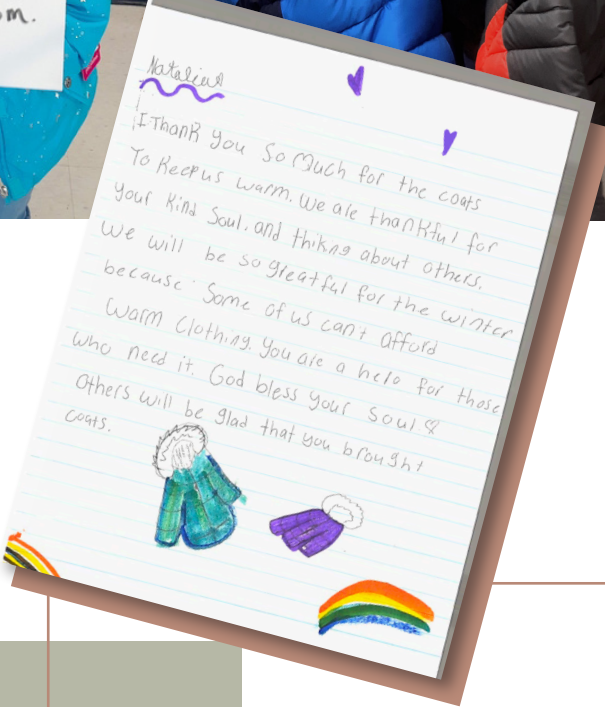
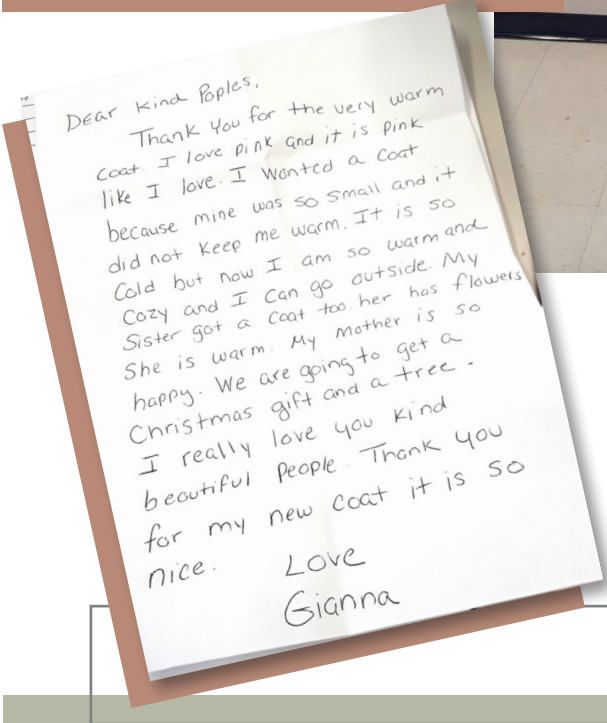
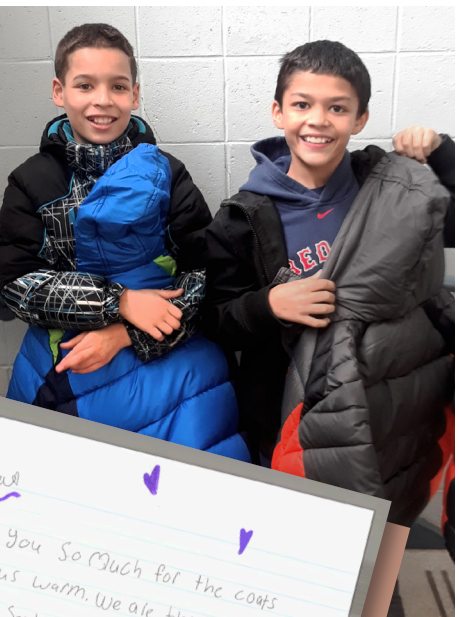
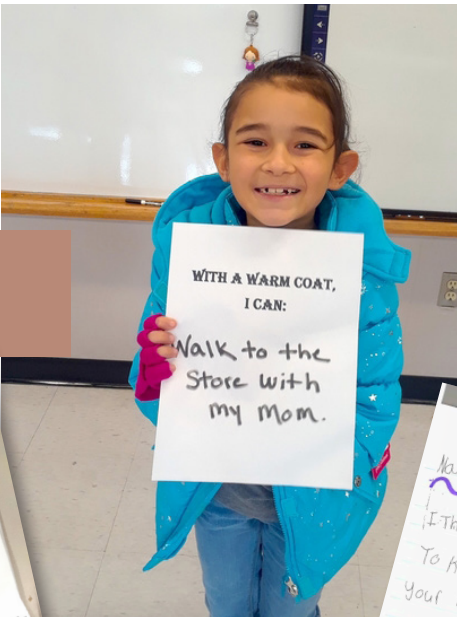
Inspectors (InterNACHI®) Founder and Master Inspector Certification Board Executive, Gromicko has extended opportunities for members from the home inspection industry and specifically, members of the (InterNACHI®) to support Cozy Coats for Kids.

To become a partner of the program, organizations are encouraged to complete an application, identify children in need of a coat, submit their orders with genders, sizes, styles and colors, and Cozy Coats for Kids will ship directly to partners for distribution. Partners can also participate in fundraising or contribute directly online.

“Cozy Coats for Kids® is only possible because of the generosity of the people and organizations who believe in what we do. We’re incredibly grateful to everyone who contributes, volunteers, fundraises and helps us reach more children each year. It’s a reminder that when a community comes together, even something as simple as a new winter coat can make a meaningful difference in a child’s life” Aey pointed out.

The partner application opens at the end of summer each year, and all coats are delivered by the end of October. Fundraising events take place yearlong for the program.

To learn more about the program, visit cozycoatsforkids.org.



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