



# Drive and Special Collection Ideas

Thank you for your interest in holding a drive for Clothes To Kids of Denver, a nonprofit that provides new and quality used clothing to students from low-income or in-crisis families in the Denver Metro Area, free of charge. This document will help you get started on planning a drive, but please keep in mind that every collection is different. Feel free to use ideas that will work best for you and your group. We are happy to help at any step along the way!

## Hold a focused drive for our most needed items – it's the best way to help!

- **NEW underwear and socks** (kids size XS-adult). Please visit our website for more information about planning an Undie 500.
- **Shoes** that are in good condition and suitable for school. Please visit our website for more information about planning a Sole Train Shoe Drive.
- **Warm winter coats** (kids size XS-adult)
- **Jeans and pants!** Girls (4T-18), Boys (4T-20), Young Women (sizes 00-26) and pants/shorts for Young Men (especially waist size 27-36)
- **School uniforms** for elementary/middle school age kids (pants, dresses, jumpers or skirts in khaki, black, navy or plaid; solid color polo shirts)

## Places to Collect

- Back to School Night/Assemblies/School Plays/Pep Rallies/ Sporting Events
- Holiday/Birthday Parties – Ask guests to bring donations instead of gifts!
- Office Parties/Conferences/Meetings

## Ways to draw interest:

- Make your drive a competition among departments, grades, classes, clubs, sports teams, scout troops or any other group. A friendly contest is a great way to encourage everyone to get involved. Honor the winning team with a special prize!
- If your drive is at a school, ask the Student Council, National Honor Society or PTA to help promote it. Including a flyer in Friday Folders or an advertisement in a newsletter will help spread the word.
- Make posters and flyers to post and decorate big boxes to collect items to remind people to give.
- Designate a time frame. We've seen very successful single-day events, 3-day drives and 2-6 week drives. Make the drive last only as long as you think you can keep excitement and interest high.

## Creative Ways to Collect:

- Obtain permission to sit outside a retail store (i.e. Target, Kmart, Payless, Walmart, etc.) and ask shoppers to purchase and donate items from our Greatest Needs list. We can provide table materials, tax receipts and help with signage.
- If many people will be driving in to drop off donations (i.e. at a school or event), consider setting up a "drive through" staffed with volunteers who can take items straight from vehicles.
- Hold a clothing swap and donate the leftover items to CTKD. Make a new package of underwear or socks the "ticket" to participate.

**When you are ready to drop off donations, please schedule a time with Lisa Maloney at [lisa@clothestokidsdenver.org](mailto:lisa@clothestokidsdenver.org). We are happy to arrange a store tour and/or a short drop off volunteer activity for members of your group so that everyone can see how their hard work will benefit children and youth in need in our community. Thank you!**