

# The Clothes Line



**OUTFITTERS**  
CLOTHE A CHILD | CHANGE A LIFE



March 2006

## *A Grateful Mom...*

September 6, 2005

Dear Associates at the Outfitters, Inc.

I want to begin thanking you for the opportunity to allow my kids to be kids. My X left me and my children thirteen years ago. It has truly been a struggle trying to raise the kids on my own having to work, never being home because of work and when home having to scrimp and save just to be able to put food on the table and clothes on their backs.

We are from California and to say the least the programs out there are very limited. The people out there just seem to be on one track as far as helping out. In other words every one out for themselves.

I have always tried to teach my children to always be thankful for what they have and to try not to complain about what they don't have. It is very important to us that we are able to let you know how appreciative we are for what you did for us. By you outfitting my kids with awesome clothes and shoes they were able to start the school year out on the right foot. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. There are truly wonderful people out there who really care. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
L.W. and children

## OVER 350 CHILDREN SERVED

After almost two years of planning, Outfitters opened its doors for clients on August 15, 2005. School registration was the week before and those families who applied for the free lunch program were given Outfitters Vouchers and instructed to call for an appointment to shop. The phone began to ring and didn't stop ringing for a month. Within two weeks, we had shopping appointments booked every night until the middle of October!

It was so exciting to see the first family walk through the door and see the expressions on the children's faces when they saw all the clothes. While the parents took a minute to fill out paperwork, Outfitters volunteers showed the children around and helped them start picking out clothing to put in the dressing rooms. The dilemma wasn't trying to find something the children liked but rather trying not to overflow the dressing rooms with all the outfits they wished to try on.

Outfitters could have easily been a fashion show runway in New York City. The children knew just how to twirl, stop and pause to let the volunteers and parents get the full effect of the latest and greatest outfit they had tried on.



Each child was able to choose 4 pants or shorts, 6 shirts, 5 pairs of underwear and socks, a jacket, a dress or skirt set and receive a \$20 voucher for a new pair of shoes. If they liked, they could also choose a pair of gently used shoes, purse, jewelry, belt, etc.



The goal at Outfitters is to make each child feel special and allow them to have a wonderful shopping experience in a setting that feels like a "hip" children's clothing store. I'll never forget the day when I overheard a little boy whisper to his mom, "This is the best store ever!" What a thrill to hear those words.

Since August we have received many letters of thanks from our clients – both parents and children. Letters (like the one on this page) tell us Outfitters is making a difference. One letter from a parent stated, "While I pray every day, keep my hopes up, and strive to provide for a better life for my kids one day, the money I saved by your generosity helped put gas in my car and food on my table." Outfitters will continue to do our best to bring our communities together to help those in need.



### **Outfitters, Inc.**

123 1/2 W. State Street  
P.O. Box 164  
Pendleton, IN 46064

*Outfitters is a Christian service  
that exists to provide new and  
quality used, in-style clothing to  
low-income children in South  
Madison County.*

Phone Number  
765-778-9097

Mary Harvey  
Director of Operations

Michelle Marks  
Director of Development

#### **Board of Directors**

Michelle Marks  
Mary Harvey  
Chris McKain  
Greg Bell

## A LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

We cannot begin to express our feelings of gratitude and thankfulness to all of you who have supported Outfitters. We only hope that you realize the difference you've made in the lives of the families we have served. You've given hope to parents who didn't know how they would provide clothing for their children but instead found their children going to school in clothes that made them smile. You've given faith to these parents that there are people in the world that do care about others and are willing to live the "golden rule."

Sometimes it's easy to become "paralyzed" because there is so much need in the world and you think "what can I really do to make a difference?" Just as you throw a stone into a pond and watch the ripples go on and on. . .it is the same with one kind gesture. Providing these clothes to the children might just be the gesture that will give them the confidence and self esteem to take a step – raise their hand in class, meet new friends, join a club – that could cause ripples of change in their lives.

We're on our way but have a long way to go. We have many goals for this next year. We will be expanding our Board of Directors in April with many new members who are very excited about our mission and helping children. We will be doing long term planning to help build an organization that will be here for years to come. Although the community has been generous in monetary and clothing donations and their volunteerism, we are far from reaching our goals. With over 750 children participating in the free and reduced lunch program and many other families in crisis situations, more resources– both monetary and volunteers– are needed to meet their needs.

We continue to ask for your support, financially and prayerfully, as we work hard to help the children in our community. Thank you again for having faith in our idea and providing hope to these families.

*Michelle and Mary*



## Local Churches Partner with Outfitters

Many area churches have opened their arms to Outfitters and by doing so have opened their arms to children in need. Outfitters has nine "Church Partners" who have designated a person in their congregation to work with Outfitters.

Our "Church Partners" have been instrumental in collecting gently used clothing, collecting new coats, hats and mittens for the Coats for Kids drive, making monetary donations and holding fundraising events.

We would like to give a BIG thank you to all our church partners!

- Fall Creek Christian Church
- Grandview Church of the Brethren
- Living Water Community Church
- Markleville North Christian Church
- Markleville United Methodist Church
- Pendleton Christian Church
- Pendleton Church of God
- Pendleton First United Methodist Church
- Rock Church

## Coats for Kids Drive A Huge Success!

Last year, National City was challenged by one of their customers to raise \$2,000 and he would match it with another \$2,000 to be used to buy coats and shoes for children in need in our school system. National City was successful in doing this through donations from other customers and businesses in the area.

To further help the cause this year, Outfitters partnered with National City by promoting donations of new coats, hats and mittens through our Church Partners. The response was tremendous and was far beyond our goals and expectations!

Outfitters' Church Partners  
contributed:

65 new coats  
135 hats  
172 gloves

As a result, National City was able to give 82 coats, hats and mittens and 92 pairs of shoes to children in need. In addition, due to excess funds that were available because of all of the donated coats, hats and mittens, National City was able to sponsor 17 children for Christmas that were identified through the school system.

Amazing things happen  
when we all work together!

### *A Teacher Sees a Difference. . .*

October 24, 2005

Dear Outfitters,

I am writing to you as an elementary teacher where I have had first hand opportunities to witness how your store has made positive lifestyle changes for students in my building.

Last week I was greeted by an enthusiastic, wide-eyed sixth grader in the hallway who usually enters the building with her head down making no eye contact as she comes to school each day. She was smiling from ear to ear and her cheeks had a new rosy glow. She stood and silently waited for me to notice that she had on a new shirt, skirt, socks, and shoes. She had even added a hint of makeup and some lovely jewelry to accessorize her clothes. I asked her where she had been shopping and she said, "The cool new store – Outfitters!" I cannot possibly explain in words the fullest extent of this dramatic, positive, overnight change in this lovely child.

The very next day one of my students came to the room whirling and twirling through the door asking if we could have "show and tell", which we seldom have, so she could show the class and tell them all about her new outfit. I, again, asked her where she had been shopping and she replied, "Outfitters – the best new store in town!" I noticed her all day sitting up straighter, smiling brighter, and making new friends on the playground as she wanted to tell them all about her new clothes and the new store.

Thank you for all you are doing for all of our children in this community. I cannot think of a more important mission for the people of our church. You are making it possible for all children to come to school on a more level playing field. These blessed children are now more able to reach their academic potentials because they feel so much better about themselves. I thank you and I thank God for your organization!

With much appreciation,

Mrs. Lori Ryan  
East Elementary

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# Thank You to Our Wonderful Supporters

*Donations as of December 31, 2005*

## **Ultimate Outfitter**

*Monetary Donation of \$1,000+*

CVS Charitable Trust  
Grandview Church of the Brethren  
Marvin Harvey  
Hoosier Park at Anderson  
South Madison Community Foundation  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

## **Select Outfitter**

*Monetary Donation of \$500+*

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Collision Cure                        | Jon and Robbyn Kizer                             |
| Jeff, Marcia, Staci, Josh & Alex Farr | Pendleton Christian Church Men of Faith          |
| Gasparovic Tax Service                | Pendleton Christian Church Vacation Bible School |
| Gary & Bette Godbey                   | Pendleton Community Church of God                |
| Jon Harvey Family                     |  |

## **Classic Outfitter**

*Monetary Donation of \$250+*

|                            |   |                               |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Greg Bell                  | Dr. N. Douglas & Ann Johnson                    | Regal Cleaners of Pendleton   |
| Century and a Half Club    | Brad Marks Family                               | Rock Church                   |
| Sean Chadwick              | Pendleton Garden Club                           | Tri Kappa (Pendleton Chapter) |
| Fall Creek Play School     | Pendleton First United Methodist Church         | Bettie M. Williams            |
| Gaia Natural Foods         | Pendleton Heights Middle School Student Council | Anonymous                     |
| David Humphrey Photography | Pendleton Lions Club                            |                               |

## **A Special Thank You**

|             |                      |                         |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Pam Frazier | Mud Puddlz           | John and Cathie Stewart |
| Sam Johnson | Pendleton Lions Club | Jack and Rhonda Titus   |
| Wayne Mocas | Quality Printing     | VC Marketing            |

*Outfitters would like to thank all those individuals, families, businesses, civic and religious organizations that have given their time, money and gifts of clothing. Unfortunately, there is not enough room in this newsletter to recognize all of you. Please know, however, that your contributions play a tremendous role in creating a place where children can come and shop with dignity for the clothes they need. Thank you so much for your commitment to the mission of Outfitters and the children in our community. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!*

## Bike Show Raises Money for Outfitters

On Saturday, July 30, 2005, the Grandview Church of the Brethren partnered with Christian Motorcyclists Association to sponsor the first annual Bike Show Fundraiser to Benefit Outfitters. Many organizations and individuals made generous contributions of their time and finances to make the fundraiser a huge success. As a result of their efforts, approximately \$1,500 was raised to help provide much needed clothing for children in the South Madison Community School Corporation.

In addition to being a very successful fundraiser for Outfitters, the event also provided a powerful outreach project on behalf of the church and many local organizations. The Madison County Sheriff's Department escorted the bike ride, Pendleton Police Department sponsored the Kids I.D. mobile van, radio stations

WQME 98.7 and 93.9 The Song were on-hand to provide music. There were clowns, Christian musicians, games, food, and prizes provided by local merchants. Because caring individuals gave so generously, many children began their school year with a joyful spirit and a renewed sense of self-esteem. The second annual Bike Show Fundraiser to Benefit Outfitters is now in the planning stages. For more information, contact Elaine Williams at (765)-778-1919.



## CVS Employees Donate Time; Outfitters Receive \$1,000



Jim Rawlings, a pharmacist for CVS, applied for a CVS Volunteer Grant which is a program that provides CVS/pharmacy associates the opportunity to apply for funding to benefit organizations where they volunteer regularly.

Jim rounded up assistance from CVS co-workers, Marsha Newcomb and Alayna McMillan, and the three were successful in getting a \$1,000 grant for Outfitters. Thanks for your time and effort!

## Middle School Student Council Sells Candy Canes for Outfitters

The Pendleton Heights Middle School Student Council planned several activities to benefit Outfitters during the holiday season. The members sold handmade Christmas cards and candy canes to the school and staff at PHMS. \$300 was donated through their efforts.

In addition, the Council had a clothing drive to collect gently used outerwear as well as new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for Outfitters. They were able to deliver four boxes of clothing from donations made at the school. Thank you Student Council!!!



## Children Helping Children

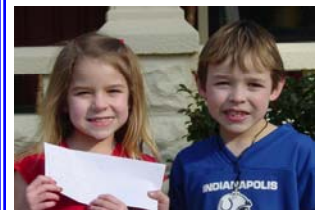
*Emma and Elijah Young are only 5 and 7 respectively but their hearts are as big as any adults'.*

*They had heard about Outfitters from their parents and at church and decided to do something to help.*

*When you're only a young "whipper snapper," what are your choices for raising money?*

*A lemonade stand. . .of course.*

*Emma and Elijah raised \$5.50 that day and with smiles on their faces handed Outfitters the money.*



*Thank you  
Emma and Elijah!*

**God Bless the  
Children**

# V O L U N T E E R H I G H L I G H T S

*Outfitters proudly highlights two of our outstanding volunteers!*



**Carol Dine**

The very first volunteer to report for duty at Outfitters, back in November of 2004, was Carol Dine. Carol has since spent many hours helping sort clothes and assist clients. During our busy “back-to-school” season she was a regular weekly volunteer and can always be counted on to lend a hand and a cheerful attitude whenever extra help is needed.

Carol and husband Jim have been married for 43 years and have two daughters and 8 grandchildren. They are active members of Pendleton First United Methodist church where they have attended for over 25 years. A retired CVS Pharmacy Technician, Carol now enjoys spending extra time with family, church, volunteering, and her much loved passion for oil painting.

When asked why she chooses to volunteer at Outfitters, she admits she did not realize the need for such a program until she attended an Outfitters presentation at her church. After hearing of the need, she felt it was a worthwhile program and was eager to help serve the children of our community. Thanks Carol!



**Patty Lovins**

Patty Lovins uses her administrative expertise to help Outfitters every Tuesday morning. Patty has been invaluable in helping us create our client database, helping us get organized, creating scrumptious meals for events and throwing herself into whatever needs to be done.

Patty is the Outfitters Coordinator at Pendleton Church of God where she and her husband Steve along with their two children, Kyle and Zachary, have attended for the last 3 ½ years.

Patty is very active in her church where she sits on the church council and on the missions committee. She is an active volunteer at another non profit organization called Horizon International whose mission is to help support African AIDS orphans. When not busy volunteering, Patty enjoys reading and watching sports.

When asked why she volunteers at Outfitters, Patty responded, “I’ve always had a heart for kids and enjoy local hands-on ministries. Outfitters is great because it effects the kids that my kids go to school with. I want my kids to see me being an active volunteer, so hopefully my kids will grow up to volunteer too.” Thanks Patty!



## V O L U N T E E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S . . .

### **Stockroom Work (sorting, organizing, stocking clothes)**

Mondays: 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Thursdays: 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

### **Shopping Assistants (helping families shop)**

Monday through Friday (March 13th—middle of May)

3:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m. and/or 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

- Fundraising
- Newsletter and graphic design
- Store maintenance
- Volunteer coordination
- Sorting/stocking clothes
- Assist clients with shopping

# HOW TO REFER A FAMILY TO OUTFITTERS

There are three requirements to becoming an “Outfitters” shopper:

1. The family must live in the South Madison School Corporation district
2. The children must be school-age (Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
3. The family must be considered in financial need of assistance, such as:
  - Children are on free or reduced lunch program
  - Family is receiving services from another social services agency
  - Family is in crises: Fire, flood, lost job, medical, etc.

The following persons can refer a family to Outfitters:

- School personnel in the South Madison School Corporation
- A social worker or case worker employed in a local social service agency
- A local church

An Outfitters Referral Form must be completed and signed by the referral source and the child’s parents or guardian.

## Q & A

### How often can a family come and obtain clothing at Outfitters?

Eligible children can shop in the Fall for a week’s wardrobe for school. The children are then invited to come back in the spring to pick out a few outfits for spring and summer.

### What is included in the wardrobe that each child receives?

In the Fall, each child receives five pairs of new underwear and socks, four bottoms (pants or shorts), six shirts, a jacket, a dress/skirt set for girls and a \$20 shoe voucher.

### How do you get your clothing?

Most of the clothing is donated from local families. Donor’s money is used to purchase items that we run low on such as young boys pants and shirts. All underwear and socks are purchased new. In addition, Outfitters gives each child a \$20 shoe voucher to purchase a new pair of shoes.

### Do you have clothing drop-off sites?

Currently, Outfitters has a drop box in Linnie B’s Laundromat, Pendleton Christian Church, Rock Church, and Pendleton First United Methodist Church. Donations can also be dropped off at any of our Church Partners. Donations of clothing can also be dropped off at Outfitters on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### Are there any paid staff at Outfitters?

No. All staff are on a volunteer basis.

### How can I make a monetary donation to Outfitters?

Please send your monetary donations to Outfitters at 123 ½ W. State Street, Pendleton, IN 46064. Checks should be made payable to Outfitters, Inc.

### Will my donation be tax deductible?

Outfitters is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

## Outfitters

### Report Card

August—December 2005

*# of Children Served*  
**353**

*# of Items Distributed*

Pairs of Underwear  
**1,604**

Pairs of Socks  
**1,698**

Pants/Shorts  
**1,347**

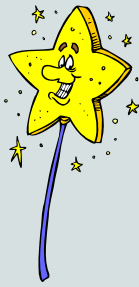
Shirts  
**2,011**

Skirts/Dresses  
**153**

Jackets  
**269**

Gently Used Shoes  
**142**

\$20 Shoe Vouchers  
**353**



## Outfitters Wish List

*New and quality used, in-style clothing  
of all sizes especially. . .*

- Athletic shorts for young and teen boys
- Summer shirts and shorts for boys and girls
- Men's and women's XL and XXL summer clothing

*Flip flops and sandals*

*Shopping bags with handles*

**Cash Donations**

**Volunteers!**



South Madison Community Foundation board member, Jeanne Custer, presents Outfitters with a \$2,000 grant.



Members of the Pendleton Lions Club present Outfitters with \$1,000 worth of socks and underwear.

*Outfitters, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.*



**Outfitters, Inc.**

*A non-profit organization*

123 1/2 W. State Street  
P.O. Box 164  
Pendleton, IN 46064-0164