

# The Clothes Line



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



March 2007

## Some Pretty Nice People in This Town

Dear Mary and Michelle,

Just wanted to send you a note today about one of my kindergarten students. "Louie" (name changed to respect privacy of the child) has been in my class since the first day of school this year. Today was his last day in my kindergarten class as he and his siblings have been placed in a foster home. The children have NOT been abused, but the parents have just had some major struggles, and the children are going to a happy, healthy foster home for a time period. I met Louie's foster mother today, and I was so impressed with the way she talked with him. . .she even encouraged me to keep in touch with Louie. I am very sad that he is leaving and the other students will be also. . .but little Louie's life has been touched in so many positive ways in this community (the foster family lives in this area also!), and I wanted you two to know that Outfitters was one of those positive experiences for Louie's family.

The very first day of school the children's aunt enrolled them. Many sudden and stressful things had occurred during the previous day, and she did not have any school supplies for the children. Our secretary assured her that the items would be ready for the children. . .not to worry. The secretary immediately made contact with Outfitters, and before the end of the day, each child had a nice new backpack and other personal items. When I gave a backpack to Louie, he gave me a huge smile, and said, "Well thanks, Mrs. Wilson! How'd you know I love Spiderman?!" I told him that some very nice people in our town knew that many boys and girls would need new shoes, backpacks, blue jeans, etc. when school started. I got another huge

smile, and he said, "Well there must just be some pretty nice people in this town! Are they friends of yours, Mrs. Wilson?" I replied, "They sure are, Louie!" . . .and turned away with tears in my eyes.

***"Outfitters! It's a really nice store! You gotta go there Mrs. Wilson! You gotta go!"***

All semester, Louie had precious and appreciative comments about little things we would do in class. He never needed a reminder to say "thank you" about anything. Then one day in early November, we had a couple of days that were fairly cold. Louie got out of the car, and came running up to me. . .all excited and calling my name.

"Mrs. Wilson! Mrs. Wilson! We went shopping! I got this new coat and hat and some mittens! Look! Look! It's Spiderman and it's a changeable coat. . .it changes! If you get one side dirty, you can change it to the inside, and if you get that side dirty, you can wash both sides!"

Louie was so proud. One of his classmates asked him where he got "that nice coat" and he just yelled, "Outfitters! It's a really nice store! You gotta go there Mrs. Wilson! You gotta go!" He just couldn't stop talking, and I was so touched by all the things he was telling the children about the dressing room, the ladies, etc., I just sent him in to the office so he could show off to the secretary, the principal, the nurse. . .the teachers. Louie said he had never been inside a store where you tried on clothes IN

the store. I know we didn't have much cold weather this year before the holidays, but EVERY time he wore that coat, or a new sweater or shirt, he would remind the other children that they needed to go shopping at that Outfitters store.

I am sure that you two have a hundred stories like this in regards to the families you have helped with your clothing mission in the South Madison County area. I know that anyone can give you money or send in clothes, and I am THRILLED that people are doing so. But the dignity and warmth that is being extended to families like Louie's cannot be measured. HE certainly felt like he was doing something special with HIS FAMILY.

All five and six year olds come in to my classroom expecting the best from me and from the world.

They all believe they are going to be somebody great someday. Life has a way of giving each of us a rough road at some point in our lives. . .we just never know when health or

economics can put us in a difficult situation. I am thankful that folks in our community have taken a step to help families in a useful and RESPECTFUL way. Thank you two for making sure that Outfitters STAYS!

Gail Esche Wilson  
Teacher, East Elementary

***"Life has a way of giving each of us a rough road at some point in our lives. . ."***



### **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

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Diane Burgette  
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## More than 3,000 Hours!

Outfitters has served over 530 children, and we couldn't have done it without our volunteers. In 2006, Outfitters' volunteers "clocked in" more than 3,000 hours!! Based on figures from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the value of a volunteer hour is \$18.30 - that equates to over \$54,000 worth of volunteer time! Our volunteers have come from all walks of life - church groups, teachers, children, seniors, etc. What a blessing our volunteers have been to the children in this community!

One of our major goals in 2007 is to build a stronger and more consistent volunteer base. Although we had many volunteers this past year, we've really struggled to get people to commit to regularly scheduled times. Our NEED for volunteers is CONSTANT and tremendous (just come look in our stock room - if you can get through the door!).

To give you an idea of a typical month in the life of Outfitters, we have to accomplish the following in the month of March. To prepare for spring shopping, we have to completely change the store from fall/winter clothes to spring/summer clothes.

We have to take a year-end inventory of all the clothes in the store. We have to schedule volunteers for every night in April and May to help the children shop for clothes. We have to prepare and mail out this newsletter to over 1,500 people. . . and the list goes on and on! There truly is something for everyone.

If you feel like you would like to help, please give Outfitters a call at 778-9097. We NEED you!



Volunteers from Grandview Church  
of the Brethren

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Sorting/Hanging Clothes:** Sorting through donated clothing to determine what to keep, putting clothes into tubs by type and size, hanging clothes and recording clothes for inventory.

**Helping Children Shop for Clothes:** Helping children find appropriate sized clothing when they come to shop and recording clothes in client's chart.

**Helping with Mailings:** Entering or updating mailing information in Excel spreadsheet, creating labels in Microsoft Word with mail merge, putting labels and seals on newsletters, copying newsletters

**CONTACT OUTFITTERS AT 778-9097 FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

# Girl Scouts Hit the Road for Kids

Pendleton Girl Scout Troop 316 needed to complete a community service project to earn a bronze award. After Faye Craig, the leader of the troop, suggested various alternatives, the girls decided to hold a clothing drive for Outfitters.

The girls, with the help of mothers Holly Holbrook and Julie Walker, wrote a short message about the project on trash bags and hung them on doorknobs in White Oaks, Pines of Deerfield and Hickory Hills subdivisions. The next Saturday they went back and collected all the bags of clothes.

Faye Craig stated, "Boy, we were so surprised by the amount of clothes we collected." The troop ended up collecting 52 bags of clothes. What an accomplishment! Thank you for your hard work and commitment to our community!

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

**Anne Frank**



Pictured: Troop leader Faye Craig, Alyssa Madren, Olivia Walker, Ski Blackwell, and Laura Barr

(Not pictured Anne Dishman, Taylor Fiew and Emily Prickert)

One kind act can change the course of a child's life!

**Gifts to Outfitters help us to clothe children in need in South Madison County. With over 800 children on the free and reduced lunch program, we need your help!**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/We would like to make a gift to Outfitters:

Ultimate Outfitter  \$1000

Select Outfitter  \$500

Classic Outfitter (Clothe a Child for a Year)  \$250

Essential Outfitter (Clothe a Child for a Season)  \$100

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Gift of securities, real estate or other assets

*Please make checks payable to Outfitters, Inc.*

Please indicate how you would like to be recognized in our printed material:

I would prefer to remain anonymous

I would like to pay tribute with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(please check one)

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person honored)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person memorialized)

If you would like to inform the above person or family of your tribute gift, please indicate whom you would like to notify. (Gift amount is not mentioned)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City,State,Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Outfitters Report Card

## # of Children Served

535

## # of Items Distributed

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Shirts         | 5022 |
| Pants/Shorts   | 3370 |
| New Socks      | 4079 |
| New Underwear  | 3850 |
| Skirts/Dresses | 431  |
| Jackets        | 554  |
| Accessories    | 543  |
| Used Shoes     | 382  |
| Shoe Vouchers* | 672  |

\*\$25 vouchers to Shoe Carnival or Kohls paid for by Outfitters

## Kids Put Compassion into Action



The children in East Elementary's Beta Club raised money for Outfitters by selling candy-grams to fellow students for Valentine's Day. Members of the Beta Club, sponsored by Angie Brinson, presented Outfitters with a check for \$210!

**Thank You Beta Club!**



Jade Mollenkopf presented Outfitters with 15 packages of underwear and socks she collected at her 8th birthday party. She asked her friends to bring donations of socks and underwear in lieu of bringing her presents.

**We Appreciate Your  
Kindness, Jade!**



**Outfitters, Inc.**

*A non-profit organization*

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