

Rotary Club Helps Keep Urbandale Students Warm With Successful Winter Coat Drive

Donating 133 winter coats to students throughout the Urbandale Community School District was part of a larger Rotary initiative that donated nearly 9,000 coats nation-wide

URBANDALE, Iowa – November 10, 2014 – On November 3, 2014, the [Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines](#) distributed 133 winter coats to students in need throughout the [Urbandale Community School District](#) (UCSD) as part of the “Light Up Rotary—Keep Kids Warm!” initiative. Rotary members donated funds to purchase the winter coats and collaborated with UCSD Facilitators of Family Outreach (FFO) to determine the gender and sizes needed to help support students in elementary, middle and high school.

“Service above self is what Rotary is all about and it is our club’s honor to be able to partner with the Urbandale Community School District to assure that every student has a warm coat this winter,” said Brenda Auxier-Mailey, Northwest Des Moines Rotary Director of Youth Focus and Coat Chair.



NW DM Rotary Members Ed Arnold, Brenda Auxier-Mailey, Jim Arthur

The generous donations by the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines were part of a larger vision of the [Rotary District 6000](#). Each Rotary Club within District 6000 raised money to supply coats to students within their own communities. In total, Rotary District 6000 raised enough money to purchase and donate 8,790 winter coats for students in need throughout the nation.

“I am overwhelmed with the amount of winter coats that were donated to the Urbandale School District. Our goal is to make sure every student stays warm during our cold winter months. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines for helping us reach our goal,” Christy Stroope, Urbandale High School (UHS) Juvenile Court Liaison and FFO.



Michele Hamilton, UCSD Coordinator of Student, Family and Community Services; Brenda Auxier-Mailey; Abby Canfield, UCSD Facilitator of Family Outreach; Christy Stroope; Ed Arnold.

The UCSD provides a multitude of services and programs designed to better support the needs of students. In 2009, UHS students with intellectual disabilities and the [Urbandale Chapter of Best Buddies](#) brought to life a district-wide program called [The Clothing Closet](#). The Clothing Closet is a student-run, non-profit business that accepts clothing donations in order to provide clothing free of charge to those in need. With the help of teachers and associates, students manage The Clothing Closet by accepting donations, laundering clothing received, responding to order requests, managing inventory and interacting with customers. The Clothing Closet has been so successful that it has outgrown its space at the high school and has expanded to a satellite location next door to [The Urbandale Food Pantry](#).

“Urbandale is blessed to have such a giving community. While we have many in the community with on-going needs, we also have individuals and groups stepping forward to share what they have. We are thankful to the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines for the support of our students through this project,” said Dr. Keri Schlueter, Coordinator of Student Services, Urbandale Community School District.

The UCSD extends a heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines for the generous donation of 133 winter coats. The District believes the significance of these coats is much more than outerwear as they serve to not only help keep students warm throughout the winter months, but also serve an even greater, though often unspoken, need which is to feel valued, respected and supported.

About Rotary

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million Rotary members in 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs have been serving communities worldwide for more than a century. The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago in 1905. For more information on Rotary International, visit www.rotary.org

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.UrbandaleSchools.com

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