

Who We Are

Who benefits from Gifts for the Homeless?

GFTH donates used clothing to over 70 shelters or other organizations serving the needy in the D.C.-metropolitan area each year, and approximately 30 organizations receive new clothing donations. Donations are made to transitional shelters, shelters sponsored by local churches, a home for men with AIDS, shelters for battered women and children – and with 1600 beds – the largest shelter for men, women, and children in Washington, D.C. GFTH has no “favorite” shelter or chosen clientele. Rather, all of DC’s homeless are potentially beneficiaries of the gifts that, with your assistance, GFTH can provide.

Where do the clothing donations come from?

In addition to receiving donations throughout the year, GFTH holds two major events: Banding Together and a Clothing Drive. Banding Together is an annual event usually held in June of each year. It is a battle of the bands benefit concert made up of 10-20 participating local bands. It makes for a fun and memorable night for over a thousand attendees. GFTH and participating bands solicit funds, which GFTH uses to purchase essential new items of warm clothing, including coats, long underwear, hats, blankets, gloves, underwear, and socks. The funds GFTH receives from public donors are used to purchase and distribute new clothing for area shelters, soup kitchens, transitional housing and other homeless service providers who depend on us each year. All donations are tax-deductible.

The Clothing Drive is an annual event usually held in December. GFTH solicits used clothing from area law firms, corporate legal departments, government legal personnel, non-profits, community groups, offices, and individuals to donate to GFTH. GFTH reaches out to 70 plus shelters to determine their individual needs to aim to provide them that the items that are needed to serve each of their individual populations (such as women’s clothes for women’s shelters, men’s clothes for men’s transitional housing, etc.). Typically, more than 300 volunteers during the course of the weekend help sort, bag and deliver the thousands of clothing donations – which include sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, blankets, pants, shoes, and boots – rendering much needed help for those in shelters and soup kitchens and who receive services from homeless outreach providers.

How did Gifts for the Homeless get started?

In 1986, a handful of young lawyers in DC ran a used clothing drive at their law firm, collecting a few dozen bags of used clothing. They also collected about \$3,000 in monetary donations, which they used to purchase some warm winter clothing from a downtown department store. In December of that year they donated the new and used clothing items to a local homeless shelter. This small effort by lawyers seeking to give back to the neediest in the local community marked the beginning of GFTH.



Numbers At A Glance

No Overhead Costs.

All of the group's expenses, including postage, supplies for the used clothing drive, food and refreshments, and even the cost of maintaining GFTH.org, are paid for and provided by area law firms, vendors, or members of the board of directors. In this way, GFTH maximizes the value of all donations made throughout the year.

No Paid Staff.

GFTH is a fully volunteer organization with no paid staff. The organization's overhead costs are supported by our board members and their employers – and not by individual donors.

Every. Single. Dollar.

Since GFTH has no paid staff and no overhead, every single dollar that GFTH receives from public donations is used to purchase and distribute new clothes for the various shelters. Yes, 100%!

Donations are used to buy and distribute new clothing and blankets in bulk at steeply discounted wholesale prices for DC area shelters. Volunteers at local law firms dedicate time to negotiate and maximize the amount of clothing donated at the best price to over 70 local homeless shelters.

118,834

new clothing items delivered

3,187

used clothing bags delivered

55

homeless orgs served

137

supporting organizations

393

volunteers

16

participating bands

