



November 10, 2003

Belmont Laundry &
Custom Dry Cleaners

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333 Belmont Avenue
Springfield, MA 01108

The Salvation Army

FOUNDED IN 1865 BY WILLIAM BOOTH

SPRINGFIELD CITADEL CORPS
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Dear Friends:

On behalf of The Salvation Army and the thousands of children and adults who are enjoying a warm coat from the Coats for Kids program, I wish to thank you for all your company did to make the program possible. How amazing it was to see thousands of people come through the doors to get a coat, they had no idea of the hard work and organization that went into getting the coats to them, but you do. The time of gathering them, cleaning them and transporting them can hardly be measured as it took time from your staff, space in your building and all of the extra effort you gave.

We cannot thank you enough. However I would like to share a story that came from a teacher who volunteered at the distribution. She noted three brothers leaving school as she got into her car. She noted that only one of them had on a coat. As she arrived at her home two blocks away from the school, she saw the boys coming up the walk and the brother that had the coat on took it off and gave it to one of the other boys. She decided to drive up a few more blocks to see if a suspicion she had played out. Sure enough when the boys had walked two more blocks, the second boy took of the coat and handed it to the third boy. It was so, on the way to and from school, the three brothers shared one coat. Unfortunately, the parents did not come to the Coats for Kids distribution, but that teacher made sure to take three coats for the boys.

Sometimes we work on something or give to a cause and never know the outcome or the impact it has made on the people or the community. I pray that this one example of the impact your efforts made in the lives of three boys and a teacher warms your heart in the cold winter months to come and that warmth is multiplied by all of the other lives your hard work and kindness has touched this year. May God bless you and your efforts this season and in the year to come as you have cared so much in helping others.

Sincerely,

Major Thomas Perks
Commanding Officer

MEMBER AGENCY
UNITED WAY OF
PIONEER VALLEY

