



United Way of Freeborn County

Dear Community Leader,

United Way of Freeborn County is preparing for the 2022 Winter Gear Drive Kickoff!

From October to January, United Way collects Winter Gear: anything designed to keep a person warm during our cold Minnesota Winters. This includes coats, hats, waterproof gloves & mittens, scarves, snowsuits, boots and more!

Once items have been procured, United Way staff work directly with school social workers and other area human service providers. Staff will deliver coats directly to the school or agency requesting the items, often filling a need before the person in need leaves for the day. This service is available year-round, but ramps up in September and October as school staff get to know students and their needs.

**There is no cost or requirement for community members to benefit from this program.**

Along with our direct referral system with social workers, we have a "community store" that is open several dates throughout the winter season. This provides an opportunity for our neighbors to have the dignity and empowerment of choice.

The Winter Gear Program needs your help to be successful. On the reverse side of this letter, there are several ways to help support this essential program in our community. Please note that to be included as a drop box location, businesses are asked to sign up and provide their logo by September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. To sign up for an area of support, please email [programs@unitedwayfc.org](mailto:programs@unitedwayfc.org) or call our office at 507-373-8670.

Additional information can be found at <http://unitedwayfc.org/wintergeardrive> or scan the QR code on the back.

Thank you for helping us LIVE UNITED this winter!

Sincerely, .....

The United Way of Freeborn County Team

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# The United Way Winter Gear Drive

## 1.) HELP US BUY WINTER GEAR

Your funds will be used to buy winter gear in sizes that were not donated. Persons receiving the winter gear will be identified by area social workers and other direct human service providers. 100% of your donation goes towards buying the winter gear.



## 2.) HOST A DROP BOX

UWFC will provide a Drop Box + Liners for your business. Drop boxes can be public access or an Employee Only Drive--your choice! UWFC staff will check in bi-weekly to determine when to pick up. Boxes are available the last week of September through December unless there are special arrangements made according to the needs of your business. To be included on the print posters, businesses must sign up by Friday, September 23rd. Sign up by emailing [programs@unitedwayfc.org](mailto:programs@unitedwayfc.org) or calling our office at 507-373-8670.



## 3.) VOLUNTEER AT A DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Teams of 3-5 are needed to volunteer at distribution events! Tasks include acting as a welcoming committee, supporting clients as they shop and keeping the coats orderly and clean. Dates are available November & December with evening, daytime and weekend dates available.



## 4.) VOLUNTEER TO CHECK BOXES

Are you able to check on boxes for us? During this season, UWFC staff are kept hopping at several locations around town. For a great, low contact way to volunteer, sign up to check dropbox locations around town and deliver them to the UWFC Office!



## 5. SPREAD THE WORD

Share our social media posts! Share the details posted on the website at <http://unitedwayfc.org/wintergear>

If you see one of our boxes, snap a photo and use #uwfcwintergear

Information sharing is one of the most important pieces to make this program a success. If community members are unaware of the program, they are unable to participate, donate or benefit.

