

Program helps dress children for school

New, used clothing available to JCPS families

BY ANTOINETTE KONZ • AKONZ@COURIER-JOURNAL.COM • AUGUST 8, 2010

As a single mother without a job, Aqueelah Bishop was starting to worry about how she was going to be able to afford uniforms for two children preparing for their first day of school at Goldsmith Elementary.

“But then I was visiting one of the local Neighborhood Places and I saw the sign for the Clothing Assistance Program and I called to see if they could help me out,” Bishop said.

On Thursday, Bishop was one of 89 parents who visited the Clothing Assistance Program at the 15th District PTA office, 319 S. 15th St. The program serves Jefferson County **Public Schools** students and their families.

“I was able to get two brand new uniforms for each child, along with some other items like underwear and socks,” she said. “I am so grateful for that program. They really helped me out. I feel so blessed.”

For almost 40 years, the Clothing Assistance Program has been providing new and used clothing to needy children.

Paula Wolf, director of the Clothing Assistance Program, said it has already served 2,000 children this summer — and it hopes to serve up to 8,000 more.

“We provide uniforms, socks, underwear and a belt for each child referred to us,” she said. “If they are not in a school with uniforms, we still provide the socks, underwear and belt, and then they also can visit our family room, which has free clothing available for anyone in the family.”

Wolf said a school's Family Resource/Youth Service Center coordinator, counselor or principal refers students in need of clothes. An appointment is scheduled, and the parent/guardian is notified of the date, time and where to go.

Wolf said most of the clothes are donated from local schools. Each school is asked to have one or two clothing drives a year. **Funding** for new clothing items comes from cash donations from schools, PTAs, individuals and a few grant sources.

Anyone needing information on making an appointment, volunteering or donating may call 485-7062. Reporter Antoinette Konz can be reached at (502) 582-4232.



Rachelle Haskins looks for clothes for her children, Ethan, center, and Charlie Haskins, on Thursday at the Clothing Assistance Program office at 319 S. 15th St. (Photos by Bill Luster, The Courier-Journal)



Colleen Spanyer, left, and her mother, Ellen Cullinane, help with the distribution effort, which offers items like uniforms, socks and underwear. (By Bill Luster, The Courier-Journal)