

Program  
Case Studies

OPERATION  
**warm**  
more than a coat®

# Theory of Change

## The Need



How much more of their income families living in poverty spend on essential needs: food, shelter, childcare, and healthcare. Kids often go without warm coats or shoes that fit due to their family's economic hardship.



The lack of appropriate attire can be a cause of absenteeism. Children who miss school may also miss the only nutritious meal they're likely to receive all day.



Children and their families are often in need of and unaware of the various resources available to them through their community's organizations.

## The Response

### Resources

#### OW Coats & Shoes

##### Warmth

Operation Warm creates brand-new, high-quality coats and shoes for children in need, offering a child both physical and emotional warmth.

##### Confidence

The gift of a brand-new coat and/or shoes empowers children by sparking self-confidence in a way that second-hand clothing cannot. A new coat and shoes can help students attend school, socialize with their peers, and play outside with pride.

##### Hope

Many families living in poverty struggle to provide necessities like food, housing, clothing, and childcare. The gift of a brand-new coat and/or shoes offers hope to both children and their caregivers, reminding them there are people in their community who care about their well-being and future.



#### Community Resources

- Wellness
- Food Services
- Literacy Support
- Volunteerism
- Fun
- School Supplies



Flow of Resources

### The Organizations We Serve



Our beneficiary organizations are nonprofits and 501(c)(3) organizations that support children and families in need, including Head Starts and Title 1 schools where 40% or more of their students' families are at or below 150% of the federally prescribed poverty level, and human service organizations such as homeless shelters, community libraries, or foster care agencies.

### Children & Families Who Benefit



Families who receive coats and shoes from Operation Warm feel a stronger sense of community. Children with a new Operation Warm coat or shoes will be able to maintain daily school attendance, helping to ensure they have access to critical classroom instruction time, heated classrooms, outdoor play with peers, and nutritious food.

## The Result



### Strong Communities

Every community is strengthened when children and families are empowered with the resources they need to thrive.

# The Heinz Endowments

*State of  
Pennsylvania*



## CAUSE

The Heinz Endowments partnered with Operation Warm to help gift brand-new winter coats to the children of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## ACTIVATION

The Heinz Endowments partnered with Operation Warm to sponsor 2,100 coats, which were gifted with the help of the Pittsburgh Fire Fighters, who worked alongside Pittsburgh public elementary schools to identify children in need. "In my 25 years in firefighting, I have rescued people from burning buildings, helped save pets, and protected homes and property. I can say that none of these has been as rewarding as the lives we help change through our partnership with Operation Warm," says John Gardella of the Pittsburgh Fire Fighters.

## RESULTS

**2,100**  
COATS GIFTED



*I can say that none of these has been as rewarding as the lives we help change through our partnership with Operation Warm.*

Liutenant | Pittsburgh Fire Fighters

## CAUSE

The Richardson Foundation partnered with Operation Warm to fund a program that would help the ISD Schools provide their students with essential clothing.

## ACTIVATION

Operation Warm worked alongside volunteers and school staff to provide 200 brand-new pairs of shoes to second grade students at Kirkpatrick Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas and helped distribute the remaining shoes to several other ISD schools.

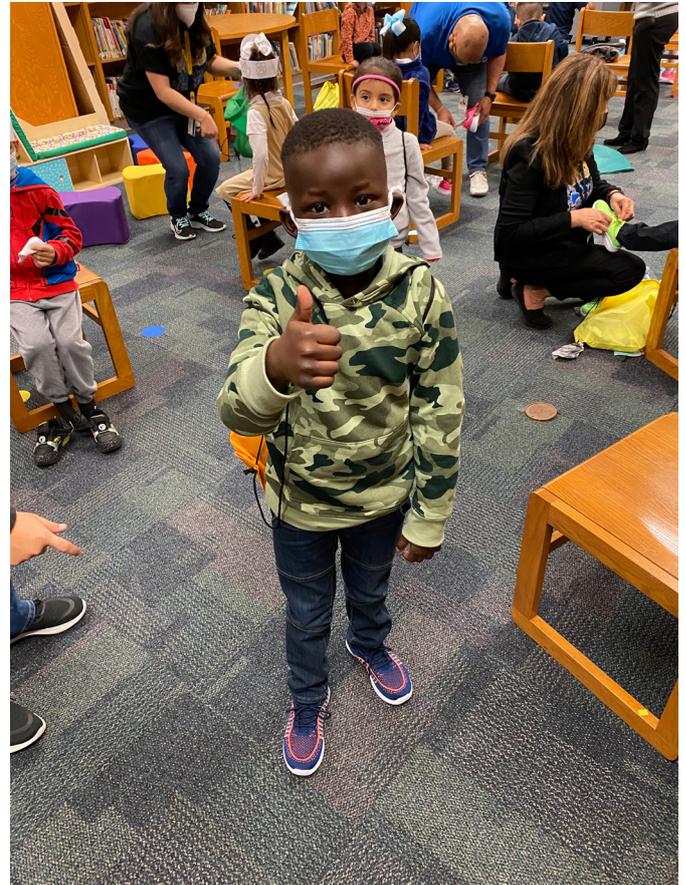
## RESULTS

**1,250**  
SHOES GIFTED

Working with the Richardson Foundation and ISD network of schools, we were able to show the students that their community cares for them while inspiring confidence.

This is best represented through the school principal Nancy Atkinson's experience;

"We saw [the kids'] faces light up when they received their shoes and they wore them proudly throughout the school year. Confidence helps students' social and emotional well-being, and we definitely saw that with Operation Warm."



***Operation Warm impacted our students' confidence this year by providing brand-new shoes!***

Principal | Kirkpatrick Elementary



# EQT Foundation

*States of  
OH, PA & WV*



## CAUSE

The EQT Foundation has partnered with Operation Warm as a corporate foundation to support focused programs in EQT business locations, making the communities they serve better places to live, work, and prosper.

## ACTIVATION

Funding supports coat and shoe gifting events in three different states where EQT operates. Elementary schools, libraries, local nonprofits, Head Start programs, and United Way organizations plan hyperlocal distribution events to guarantee that every child in the community can experience warmth, confidence, and hope.

## RESULTS

**12,000**

COATS GIFTED

**500**

COATS SHOES GIFTED (YEAR ONE)



About EQT Foundation

*EQT is proud to be a part of the many communities where we operate, live and work. We believe strongly that giving back is a responsibility, and we've stayed true to that belief since the EQT Foundation was established in 2003 as a dedicated resource for financial, in-kind and volunteer support to communities touched by our business.*

**State of  
Utah**

# Sorenson Legacy Foundation

## CAUSE

The Sorenson Legacy Foundation partners with Operation Warm as a family foundation to support programs throughout the state of Utah, supporting low-income families and Native American communities.

## ACTIVATION

Their generous funding directly supports coats and shoes for 10,000 children throughout the state of Utah. In addition, the program supports a strong and growing library program so families in need can access the additional community services that libraries provide.

## RESULTS

**17,700**  
COATS GIFTED



*Since bringing their services to Utah, Operation Warm has made a big impact on school children in need.*

Lisa Meiling | Sorenson Legacy Foundation

# Chicago Community Trust

State of  
Illinois

## CAUSE

The Chicago Community Trust has partnered with Operation Warm as a community foundation to provide resources and support to thousands of children across the city.

## ACTIVATION

Funding supports several key initiatives, such as the annual Impact Beyond Warmth event with the Chicago Housing Authority. Coats are also offered to organizations serving at-risk children for significantly reduced donation levels through the Virtual Coat Closet. Warm Welcome to the Library events are held at multiple public library locations, while flu shot clinic and coat gifting events run simultaneously at local health and wellness centers.

## RESULTS

**14,000**  
COATS GIFTED



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES

About The Chicago Community Trust

*As one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, The Chicago Community Trust has a long, rich history of cultivating philanthropic support to address our region's most pressing needs.*



Learn more at  
[Operationwarm.org](https://www.operationwarm.org)