



COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLOTHING DRIVE AT THE CENTER FOR HUMANE LIVING

By Diana Padilla

On Saturday, October 5th, 2024; The Center for Humane Living hosted a community clothing drive that will be remembered for its generosity and collaborative spirit! Organized by Angel Contreras, Vivek Shanavas, and Mackenzie Zimmerling, this event saw an outpouring of support from both volunteers and residents in need. With a total of 29 volunteers, the drive not only succeeded in bringing people together but also amassed a substantial amount of donations. Over \$11,600 worth of clothing items were collected and distributed to Phoenix area residents in need.

From early morning until afternoon, the Center bustled with activity as people of all ages and backgrounds gathered to lend a hand or receive support. The volunteers played a key role in organizing, sorting, and distributing the items, ensuring that everything ran smoothly and efficiently. Their collective efforts made the event both productive and encouraging, bringing hope and practical assistance to individuals and families facing tough times.

Volunteers sorted through mountains of clothes, offering everything from warm jackets and sweaters to shoes, blankets, and children's clothing, just in time for the cooler months ahead. The donations were not only generous but also diverse, ensuring that everyone who came in need of clothing left with items that suited them.

The organizers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, whether by donating items or lending a hand. "We couldn't have done it without the incredible support from our volunteers and the generous contributions from our community," said Shanavas. Contreras added, "Seeing the smiles on the faces of families getting these donations shows us how impactful such an event can be."



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Residents who benefited from the clothing drive left with bags full of essentials, helping to alleviate some of the financial burdens they face during these challenging times. The event not only provided much needed clothing but also fostered a sense of unity and support within the community. Zimmerling, who led in the coordination of the logistics, shared, "I could not be more grateful for the guidance and support from my fellow CHL members. The overwhelming amount of items pouring through represented CHL's dedication to the less fortunate. It made me so proud to see the impact our school had on our community".

With such a strong turnout and incredible impact, organizers are already discussing plans to make this a bi-annual event, continuing their mission to uplift and support local residents. The Center for Humane Living co-founder Lisa Dado commented; "Our next generation, our legacy, is undeniably secure. Witnessing the joy in the eyes of our CHL students who generously donated items, and then gave them away to the community in need was so rewarding. The unconditional love demonstrated by giving to others, gave them a deep satisfaction. We have truly created a "pay it forward culture"." CHL hopes to continue these efforts in the future and encourages anyone interested in future volunteer opportunities or donating to learn more about the organization at www.centerforhumaneliving.com.

