



## **Kids in Coats Benefit Ideas**

Here are some ideas to help you support the Kids in Coats Fund at any time of year, whether you are an individual, group of friends, business/civic organization, faith community or school. United Way of Windham County will provide you with promotional materials to help make your event a success!

### **Auction**

Do you have an abundance of stuff and want to give back? Auction off some of your items and pledge the earnings, or a portion of the earnings, to the Kids in Coats Fund!

### **Bake Off**

If you can bake, challenge your friends or co-workers to a bake off. Have each person buy into the competition, and split the proceeds between the best baker and Kids in Coats!

### **Birthday Benefit**

Request donations for your birthday! If you have a party, ask each person to donate to the kids in your community in the amount of whatever they would typically spend on you. If you are planning a party, consider The Retreat Farm in Brattleboro as your destination: they are a Kids in Coats sponsor!

### **Challenge Your Circle to a Friendly Contest**

Compete for "Ugliest Holiday Sweater" around the holiday season, "Worst First Date" around Valentine's Day, hold a costume contest at Halloween or a "Whose Resolution Lasts the Longest!" after New Year's. Whatever time of year, challenge co-workers, neighbors, friends or family and ask each participant to make a donation to enter.

### **Climb a Mountain for the Kids**

Climb a mountain to show your support and ask for friends or co-workers to sponsor your efforts through a Facebook event!

### **Competitive Cooking**

If you have extremely competitive, talented friends, challenge them to a competitive cooking competition. Have participants and food judges buy into the competition and split the proceeds between Kids in Coats and your winner.

### **Cookie Swap**

Invite over your friends for a cookie swap! Each person makes cookies for the group, and brings a small donation to support Kids in Coats. Everyone gets to walk away with their friends' delicious creations AND gets to support a great cause!





## **Donation Drive**

Hold a giftcard/gift certificate donation drive (to anywhere where children's winter gear is sold) and then donate them to UWWC - all will be used to assist local families. You could also host a children's winter coat drive and donate the coats you receive to one of our community partners that accept Kids in Coats vouchers (we'll supply you with a list!).

## **Dinner Party/Luncheon/Tea/Holiday Party**

Host a party for your friends, family, or office team. Ask everyone to bring their favorite meal, dessert, tea, etc. and ask everyone to donate what they would typically spend on a meal to the Kids in Coats Fund. This is a great way to gather for a great time, and a great cause!

## **Facebook Event**

Regardless of the season or your reason for giving back to the Kids in Coats Fund, you can create a Facebook event on Facebook to easily spread the word to your networks and gain support from the community.

## **For Your Business**

If you sell a product/service or are a retail business, donate a percentage of your sales for a day, a week, or even a month ANY time of year. Or, ask customers to "round up" the cost of their purchases to donate to Kids in Coats. If you have employees, leave a donation jar and KIC info in the break room or cafeteria of your workplace for a week or month (for the price of a cup of coffee, they can help local children keep warm!).

## **Kids Crafting**

Host an event for kids to show their support of Kids in Coats. Donations will buy the kids an opportunity to make an art piece inspired by the idea of "community."

## **Love Your Community**

For Valentine's Day, instead of sharing cards, show your love to the families in this community who are struggling by donating in honor of your loved ones. Ask friends, family or colleagues to send you love through donating or bring some heart shaped cookies into work in exchange for donations. If you are a teacher, ask parents to donate to Kids in Coats rather than sending in candy, or if you're a cook, plan to bake up some heart shaped cookies with kids' names on them and request donations!

## **Santa Run, Pumpkin Roll, Bunny Hop!**

Gain sponsorship for yourself and a group of fun-loving, costumed friends or co-workers and run to keep kids warm! Post the plan on Facebook and gain support from the community. This is a fun team building idea for a group of co-workers or friends!





## Scavenger Hunt

To participate, each team donates to the Kids in Coats fund and then embarks on their scavenger hunt. This is a fun way to spend time out on the town while also helping the community.

To donate to the Kids in Coats Fund throughout the year:

- Visit [www.unitedwaywindham.org/kidsincoats](http://www.unitedwaywindham.org/kidsincoats) to donate online
- Mail a check to United Way of Windham County, PO Box 617, Brattleboro, VT 05302 with KIC in the memo line.
- Drop a donation off between 9am – 5pm at the United Way of Windham County office at 1 Holstein Place, Brattleboro.

