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CLOTHING OUR KIDS (COK) PRESS RELEASE – MARCH 22, 2025 IF YOU AREN'T AWARE OF WHAT DECENT CLOTHING CAN MAKE IN A STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL LIFE, HERE'S AN EXCEPTIONAL EXAMPLE MADE POSSIBLE BY SHOES THAT FIT

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Shoes That Fit – Every Child Deserves Them – COK and Shoes That Fit (STF) began a partnership in 2023 due to STF providing uniforms in Sussex County. The national STF organization asked the Sussex County chapter to focus solely on a shoe mission. STF advised COK Grant Chair Peter Thoms about the Chichester DuPont grant they obtained for uniforms and asked Chichester DuPont to continue providing the schools they support this time for shoes. In 2024 STF set a stretch goal to provide every homeless (McKinney Vento) student with new brand name sneakers in the Fall. To be successful, they needed 'boots on the ground' in Sussex County and COK was a perfect partner. STF's specific request was to distribute shoes for Cape Henlopen and Indian River School Districts which had some of the larger shoe needs. COK Volunteer Cathy Showell was able to help the schools with measuring, completing the order form, and receiving the shoes. COK's Sandy Wolfgang and a Team sorted them, while COK Drivers including Robyn Dagen delivered the shoes to the schools. COK stepped in to make the process easy on the school personnel while ensuring the children received the correct shoes that were delivered directly to the schools. These two school districts were the beneficiaries of the dedication and caring service that COK Volunteers are known for. STF considers COK a critical partner as they continue to increase their shoe program in Sussex County to support all homeless, foster, and low-income students at risk.

And now, from a Social Worker: I wanted to share a story – One of the supports we offer at Cape Henlopen High School is "bilingual tutoring" for our multi language learning (MLL or ESL) students. We have a Teacher who stays after school hours on Wednesdays to help youngsters with their studies from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. We also have another Teacher who stays after on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and offers an hour of academic tutoring after which the Teacher takes the students to the gym to play for an hour before boarding the late activity bus. One Friday not too long ago, a student came down to see me for different reasons and then happened to ask if I had sneakers since he wanted to stay after regular school hours for tutoring and go to the gym. However, he did not have sneakers to wear. I was happy to tell him I certainly **DID!** Well, he left and before I knew it, I had students coming down left and right! They wanted to stay for the Tutoring/Exercise Combo and needed sneakers as well. They were so happy to try on the sneakers and leave with a new pair that served them well on many levels. **Thank you, COK, and Shoes That Fit, for helping our student community!** #CapeProud

What a difference a brand-new pair of sneakers can make.

For information regarding Clothing Our Kids (COK), or to donate, please go to www.clothingourkids.org. Kindly pass on the good work of COK by sharing this update and liking our Social Media posts with your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

