

Coosa Valley Fraternal Order of Police Assists Rome City Schools with Stock the Closet Event



With the season of giving approaching us, what better way to kick start the holidays than helping students in need to stock their closets with items of importance?

Many times, the holidays highlight the needs of families and Kirsten Thornante, Rome City Schools System Social Worker and Homeless Liaison, had the same thought as she sat down for a meeting with Chris Fincher, a Sergeant with the Floyd County Police Department and President of the Coosa Valley Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

Fincher and Thornante decided to do more than simply just giving—so they put together an event called Stock the Closet.

The Stock the Closet event is an addition to the annual Shop with a Cop event hosted by the Coosa Valley FOP each year. Thornante arranged for counselors from all Rome City Schools to travel to the East Rome Wal-Mart to participate in the event.

Each counselor brought along a list of items they knew students from their schools needed, along with a \$200 budget, and shopped until they dropped.

Some of the items Rome City Schools' counselors were able to purchase for their students were:

- 15 packs of underwear
- 20 packs socks
- 105 pairs of pairs/ jeans
- 19 coats/ jackets
- 20 sweatshirts/ hoodies
- Many winter hats and gloves

-Belts

-Deodorant and other personal hygiene items

“Every year we help the police department with Shop with a Cop, but this year, we wanted to do more,” explained Thornante. “I got together with Sgt. Fincher and we decided on forming a Stock the Closet event. A lot of times, students need more than just school supplies. The Stock the Closet event allows students to receive other items they may truly need.”

Fincher and his team were beyond excited to help with the Stock the Closet event.

“Helping students maintain their self-worth throughout school is so important, as it is a key component in helping them learn effectively,” said Fincher. “Our hope is that we can provide these children things that will help them learn and feel comfortable at school. We also hope that the Stock the Closet event will shine a light on this cause and get them excited about helping us with Shop with a Cop a little later on in the year.”

“We have tons of support from our community, whether that is from parents, other teachers, the police departments, etc.” said Thornante. “We are so thankful for their help and we can’t wait to gift these children with some much-needed materials.”

Thornante is also currently preparing another event where families are confidentially paired with community donors who can help by being an "angel" to the children by purchasing gifts.

“We typically ask that you spend a maximum of \$60 on a child for this occasion. The “angel” is then provided with a list of sizes and interests for the child as guidance,” explained Thornante.

If you, a family member, your office, a service group, your friend or your neighbor are in the position to help with one or more children, Thornante and Rome City Schools would greatly appreciate the support.

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