

## WARM WINTER OUTERWEAR NEEDED

### United Way's Koats for Kids Program launches for 2002-2003

Today is the day to start giving gently-used winter outerwear another chance to keep a Winnipeg child warm this winter through United Way's [Koats for Kids program](#).

The annual drive to collect coats, snowsuits, jackets and snowpants has officially begun.

[Koats for Kids](#) isn't just about handing out coats. It has multiple benefits for both the child and the child's family, Bern Bileski, Director of Community Investment at United Way of Winnipeg, said. Children who might be otherwise be marginalized by not having proper winter outerwear are more accepted by their peers. Families who might be struggling financially get the support through [Koats for Kids](#) to help provide basic needs for their children.

Since its creation 13 years ago, [Koats for Kids](#) has distributed more than 60,000 items of warm winterwear to Winnipeg youngsters. The program is the result of a longstanding partnership that includes United Way of Winnipeg, Perth's Services Ltd., United Parcel Service, The Winnipeg Sun, CTV, KY-58 Radio and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

Coats can be dropped off at any Winnipeg Perth's location and at Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service fire stations. They are collected by UPS, sorted at a central United Way warehouse, cleaned by Perth's, and sent to daycare centers, schools, community organizations and United Way agencies to be distributed to the children who need them.

In addition, many schools, community organizations, businesses and agencies support the [Koats for Kids program](#) by holding their own mini Koats for Kids collection drives.

Anyone looking for more information about [Koats for Kids](#) can call the hotline at (204) 479-7887.

For more information, please contact:  
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