

Coats for Kids 2010-'11

It was a cold, snowy day in December of 2008 and we were driving through a nearby city when I saw them. It was a mother with a couple children, the youngest of which, a toddler, she was lowering into a dumpster to fish out items outside her reach. The whole scene broke my heart, but my focus went to the child in the dumpster. This child had barely any clothes on. I wanted to stop and give the mother something, anything, to help keep her child warm, but I didn't stop. Thoughts of that child haunted me, breaking my heart a little more with each passing day.

It was then that I decided to go purchase a van load of coats from a nearby second-hand store to keep on hand for such occasions. That first year, 50 coats were given.

In the fall of 2009, the Lord spoke to my heart again, reminding me of the coats. I wrote to friends, family, and a couple supporting churches, telling them what I wanted to do. Enough money was received to pass out 200 coats, 300 pair of socks, and 300 DVDs of Turkish church services.

Then in September of 2010, I wrote again, asking for prayers and support to get coats to the needy children of our area—to help keep them warm. The response was overwhelming! One church in middle Tennessee heard of the efforts and bought 200 coats to be shipped to Romania. Others gathered money and sent it to Charity Baptist Mission for "Coats for Kids".

As of today, January 6, 2011, the 200 coats have arrived in Romania and 280 coats, socks, and DVDs have been given here in Bulgaria, as well as several bags of stocking hats. From here we hope to get to fellow missionary Zachary LeFevre's villages and then move on to National Pastor Mitko Stefanov's villages. There is much work yet to be done.

Here are just a few of the many recipients of this year's Coats for Kids Bulgaria:





I want to thank each and every one of you for your support in the form of prayers, financial contribution, and/or letters of encouragement. It is my prayer that Coats for Kids will continue to grow and that many little lives will be touched by the love of Jesus Christ.

With Sincerest Thanks,

Carrie M. Leach