

Coats For Kids in 18th year

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Although there are local programs to help those in need with food and other basic necessities, items that often get overlooked are coats and other clothes.

Temperatures may have warmed up recently, but the cold snap in October was a reminder of just how cold it can get in the Boundary.

To that end, Discover Border Country Realty has once again brought their Coats For Kids program to the area. The program, which is in its 18th year, collects new or slightly used winter coats and distributes them to local people in need.

"One of our strongly held beliefs here is that you have to give back to your community," said Sharon Marshall of Discover Border Country Realty. "What we do is collect winter clothing such as coats, boots, hats and mitts. We collect the items all year long." Marshall said they are very grateful for the help of the Grand Forks Christian Centre which receives the clothes for



the program.

"They've been good enough to receive the things that we collect and then hang them up and basically size them," said Marshall. "And then we advertise to let people know when they can come to the church and pick a coat. The only stipulation is that the items we receive and collect are given away for absolutely no cost to the people who need them."

Marshall said they don't count the number of clothing items but she did say they were able to fill two station wagons worth of donations.

The coats were distributed

on Dec. 5 and 6 this year.

"We're still receiving them and collecting them and we'll do the same thing next year," she said.

The coats and other clothes were given to anyone who wanted them. Marshall said there are no stipulations. People just show up at the Christian Centre and pick up a coat or other item.

"The church has been wonderful," she added. "They've done this with us all these years."

Marshall was also appreciative of the ladies hospital auxiliary as well as the general public for their support. "They've been very supportive and given us plenty of coats for this project," she said. "The town is really generous. In past years we've had people go out and buy brand new snow suits. We had one lady go out one year and buy a brand new snow suit for both a boy and a girl. It's really a neat thing."

Anyone interested in donating to Coats For Kids is urged to drop off a coat to Discover Border Country Realty at 347 Market Ave.