

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY



HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

Special Edition

Coat Drive 2022

Another year of sharing the warmth with people in our local communities!

The 16th annual Coat Drive hosted by the Honors College and the Honors Club is another one for the record books! Thanks to the generosity of the entire campus community, Honors collected 760 coats and hundreds of other items (hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, etc.).

Honors College Dean, Dr. Barbara Andrew, was impressed with the generosity of the campus community.

"We collected 150 more coats than last year and were inundated with bags of donations," said Andrew. "We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated items and volunteered their time. We could not do this without everyone's support, and it's amazing to realize that more than 750 people will benefit from our work."

A group of Honors students and staff delivered the items to The Father English Community Center in Paterson on 11/22. The office of Campus Activities, Service & Leadership assisted with arrangements and funding for transportation on the University shuttle bus.



It took several hours for Honors student volunteers to sort, count, and pack all of the Coat Drive donations.



Paula Havlin

"The Father English Community Center in Paterson is located so close to WP and to my home, and it was important to me to use this opportunity to help my neighbors who are in need."

***- Paula Havlin,
Senior, Honors Nursing Track***



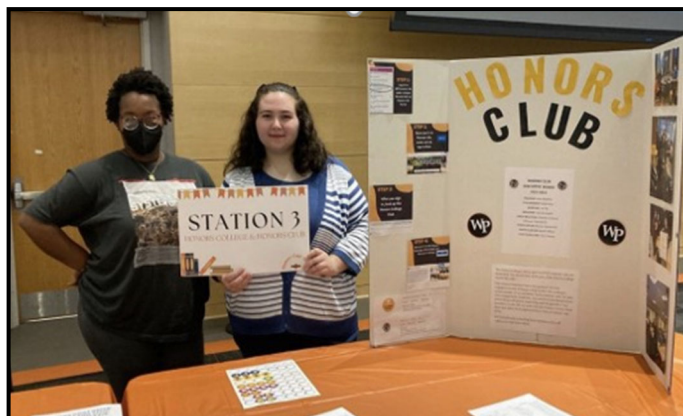
Honors student, Michael Blizzard (right), collected the very first donations back in 2006.

"I was surprised to learn how much of an impact the Honors Coat Drive has on people's lives, and knowing that it is an annual Honors event started by a student makes it richer in meaning. I'm glad to know that there are many ways to help out through different civic engagement events, as it truly is a team effort."

- Casey Cruz, Senior,
Honors Performing and Literary Arts Track

New this year

This year's Honors Coat Drive began earlier than usual with a Kick-Off event that was held on September 28th in the ballrooms. The Honors College, Honors Club, and Campus Activities, Service & Leadership (CASL) collaborated on this event that featured "Neptune," a band comprised of our own Honors College students, James Bally, Conor Borthwick, Lasse Corson, and Eoin O'Mara.



Honors College student assistant, Jessica Momanyi (left), and Honors Club President, Anna Segelken, distributed information at one of the stations at the Coat Drive Kick-Off and Civic Engagement Fair.

How it all started

Honors student, Michael Blizzard, came up with the idea for the first coat drive when he served as the President of the Honors Club in 2006. At that time no one could imagine that his idea would end up helping hundreds of people in the coming years, and that the Honors Coat Drive would become an annual tradition at William Paterson.

Civic Engagement is one of the core values that is inherent in WP's mission statement. The Honors College fulfills this mission by helping students along the path to leading an enriched, accomplished, and compassionate life.



When it comes to civic engagement, Honors students are leaders on campus!

The kick-off also featured an interactive Civic Engagement Fair where students had the opportunity to complete a quick project, gather information about Father English, learn about programs offered by CASL, sign up for civic engagement opportunities, learn about clubs and organizations, and reflect upon what they learned. Nearly 100 students attended this event, which highlighted the importance of civic engagement on campus and generated a lot of excitement about the Fall 2022 Coat Drive. CASL generously provided the food for the event.

Scenes from the Honors Coat Drive Kick-Off and Civic Engagement Fair



A workshop inspired the volunteers



Yolany Gonell, Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion at William Paterson, led a compelling workshop exploring social justice issues.

On November 16th, the Honors Club and Honors College co-sponsored a donation processing event with guest speaker, Yolany Gonell, Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion at William Paterson. Yolany moderated an interactive workshop exploring civic engagement as a means towards social justice. Dinner was provided by the Student Government Association.

Following dinner and the presentation, the student volunteers went to work for several hours sorting, counting, and bagging the donations in the Provost's Office. (A special thanks to Provost Powers and staff members, Claudia Chavez and Claudia Tormino, for allowing Honors to use their office space.)

Honors students hosted their own Fall 2022 Mini-Coat Drives

The Honors College requires students to complete a minimum of seven hours of civic engagement each academic year. Some students opt to earn credit by organizing and hosting their own mini-coat drives and then donating the items to the annual Honors Coat drive.

This *Host-Your-Own-Mini-Coat-Drive* initiative, implemented a few years ago by Dean Andrew, gives

students the option of completing all seven required hours at once, and has proven to be very successful. In order to participate, students must submit a proposal in advance outlining their project and providing details about how they will carry out their plan.

Once they host their coat drive, students are required to follow up with photos and a reflection paper that outlines the learning outcomes from their experience.



Angel Aguilar

Angel collected donations at the Jefferson Township Library, worked with the Oak Ridge elementary schools to donate items from their lost and found bins, and put a collection box at Acme Markets, where she is employed.

Angel said she found the idea of hosting a mini-coat drive to be especially appealing because for as long as she could remember, her parents taught her to appreciate what she has, and to always do all she could to help others in need.



Jessica David and Isabel Nemeth

Best friends, Jessica David and Isabel Nemeth, decided to host their coat drive together at their job at Holsten's, an iconic ice cream parlor in Bloomfield where the final scene of *The Sopranos* was filmed.

In addition to helping people in the community, the pair took advantage of this opportunity to gain experience and build their resumes. Both of the busy juniors were concerned that running this event would be stressful due to do their school and work obligations, but they were surprised to discover that this was the best civic engagement activity they ever participated in.



Natalie Donda

Natalie collected at two companies, "The Grand" and "Always Forwarding," in Parsippany, as well as in her neighborhood. She was excited about doing something that would help people stay warm during the winter months.

Natalie found the experience very fulfilling and said that putting her ideas and plans into action and following through with the project helped her gain confidence in herself.

"At the Coat Drive Kick-Off, I was surprised to learn just how many coats are donated to the Honors Coat Drive each year, and even more surprised to learn how many people in the area were in need of these coats."

***- Johnpaul Infante,
Sophomore Biology major***



Kaden Donnelly

Kaden (right), collected coats at the Ponds Reformed Church in Oakland. Kaden collected several bins full of winter outerwear for the Honors Coat Drive in 2021, and was happy to be able to do it again this year!



Lauren Feola and Emilie Rago

This was Lauren's and Emilie's second year hosting a coat drive together. They both reside in Parsippany and conducted the mini-coat drive through a church organization.

Volunteering is one of the things the two friends have in common, and they really appreciated the opportunity to work with the people in their community and perform acts of kindness for those in need.

"I feel that I am privileged to have winter jackets, gloves, boots, and socks and I have an obligation to help those who are not as fortunate."

- Vanessa Tousignant,
Senior, Honors Humanities Track



Paula Havlin

This was Paula's second time hosting a coat drive out of her home in North Haledon. In addition to collecting hundreds of coats for the second year in a

row, Paula received monetary donations totaling \$450 from individuals and organizations, including the North Haledon chapter of UNICO, the largest Italian American Service Organization in the USA. Paula used the funds to purchase brand new hats, gloves, scarves, ear warmers, and packages of hand-warmers.

In addition, Paula accepted donations from a North Haledon family that donated 25 children's coats in honor of their best friends' baby, Ella Marie. Ella was born with a heart defect and died from complications after undergoing surgery.

At her funeral, Ella's grandfather asked everyone to "help her light shine," and this family decided that

they would donate new winter coats for children each year as their way of keeping Ella's memory alive.



*In memory of Ella Marie
12/6/07— 12/23/07*



Stepheny Kallah

Stepheny (center) set-up her mini-coat drive at St. Mark's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral in Paramus. Stepheny said she viewed this experience as very humbling, because it helped her focus on people who need assistance. Throughout her coat drive, Stepheny said she thought about all the families and individuals who would benefit from the generous donations of others.



Vanessa Tousignant

Vanessa (right) hosted her mini-coat drive at various locations in her hometown of Hawthorne. Vanessa said she was really grateful for the number of coats and winter apparel that she received through her mini coat drive, and continues to be amazed by people's generosity. Vanessa said that while she organized boxes and took care of the logistics, the people who donated were actually the ones who made her coat drive successful.

Helping WP students in need

About a dozen of the coats that were collected were set aside for current William Paterson students. Anna Segelken (left), President of the Honors Club, gave the items to Theresa Bivaletz, WP's Social Worker for Student Support & Resources. Theresa will keep the coats on hand in her office so they can be distributed to any William Paterson students in need.



Delivering the donations to The Father English Community Center



Volunteers, including Provost Joshua Powers, helped load the University shuttle for the trip to Father English.



(Above) WP Detective, Jason Hunter, who serves as Operations Manager at Father English, helped unload the donations and (bottom left) Carlos Roldan, Food Pantry Director at Father English, gave the students a tour of the facility and discussed the organization's mission.



Celebrating our success

The Honors College hosted a reception on 12/7 to celebrate the successful 2022 Coat Drive. During this event, students who conducted their own mini-coat drives were presented with certificates by President Helldobler and recognized for "extraordinary dedication to civic engagement by hosting a mini-coat drive and contributing to the Honors annual Coat Drive."

Pictured (from left): President Helldobler, Vanessa Tousignant, Jessica David, Isabel Nemeth, Paula Havlin, Natalie Donda, Angel Aguilar, Stepheny Kallah, and Dean Barbara Andrew.



Honors Associate Director, Jan Pinkston, was recognized during the Coat Drive reception for "outstanding service, tireless effort, and extraordinary dedication to the Honors annual Coat Drive."

Pinkston has been the administrator behind the coat drive since 2006, and has overseen 16 annual coat drives, resulting in donations to local charities of more than 3,400 coats.



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The Honors College and Honors Club would like to sincerely thank all the individuals from the entire WP University Community and beyond who donated items to the 2022 Coat Drive! We could not do this without your support! Also, special thanks to the following:

Barbara Andrew
Lorenzo Assante
James Bally
Ah'Jahnae Barker
On'Yae Barker
Brianna Belar
Kate Boschert
Bernadette Duran
Theresa Bivaletz
Jessica Bodei
Conor Borthwick
Claudia Chavez
Joel Cheriyan

Luca Colonna
Shamira Contreras
Lasse Corson
Carmine Coscia
Casey Cruz
Alex De Oliveira
Stephanie DeFede
Ehrin Dix
Bernadette Duran
Rochelle Estrada
George Ferguson
Becca Gilliland
Yolany Gonell

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Nathan Reilly
Carlos Roldan
Jordyn Rush
Justina Saad
Brooke Sachau

Madeline Schwartz
Anna Segelken
Austin Sidito
Alanna Timmons
Claudia Tormino
Jakia Uddin
Zubayeda Uddin
Cami Vasquez
Jenna Vitale
Rebecca Vitale
Vienne Voysey
Julia Zon