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For immediate release

Media Alert

Mission to Hold Press Conference About Non-Profit Event: Klothes for Kids

Panama City Rescue Mission will hold a press conference Tuesday July 12 at 10 a.m. at the Rescue Mission's Bargain Center on 6th Street to announce details of a clothing drive to help needy and homeless children prepare for back-to-school.

Plans to launch this intensive clothing program started early in the year. Those plans were held back pending decisions by the school board whether to make uniforms mandatory.

"We know there are nearly 400 homeless school children registered in Bay district schools," Mission Executive Director Rev. Billy Fox said. "These and hundreds more kids in poverty would have been devastated by that late announcement for uniform requirements."

According to recent news reports, the school board announced they would not be providing assistance to families in the event uniforms had been approved.

This year the Mission hopes to provide 2-3 good clean used or new outfits for needy children who would have difficulty purchasing new clothes this year (and uniforms next year).

The public is asked to come forward to help in three ways.

- People can donate their kids' unused clothes and shoes or purchase new clothes and drop them off at the Mission and other partner locations to be released at the press conference.
- People can volunteer their time to sort donations between now and July 31st and to help with the give-away. The Panama City Mall is hosting the distribution during the first week of August, just in time for school to start.
- People can donate financially to cover logistic costs and to purchase new clothes for give-away.

Please contact the Mission corporate office at 215-9007 if a reporter can attend the conference, or would like to schedule a separate interview.

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