



Coats for Kids – 2025 Summary

#881Council

Advertising done on St F bulletin board, Wabasha Herald issue October 28th.

October 29 St Felix Gym entrance hall used to display 96 coats: 4 PM to 7 PM.
Jeani Tennis knitted dozens of colorful stocking hats to go with the coats. A card of thanks to her is warranted. (yet to me done!!)

Leland and Gracelyn Leichtnam, Bill Hager, Dan Schaefer, Patrick Derleth and Andy Danckwart, Father Tom worked the event

Slow going with ~ 6 families coming in yielding **14 coats** distributed

Gracelyn went on W helping W site at 6:00 pm and 2 families came at 6:55 PM

Packed up the balance of 82 coats and stored them at his house.

Ken, Patrick, and Dan met to discuss Plan B options on November 5th and decided to consider partnering with the County Public Health or Social Services. Dan called Tammy Fiedler, RN director of Public Health for Wabash County. She was very interested in working with the KCs

Ken and Dan took the boxes of coats to PH on November 7th. The staff there stacked them on tables in their lobby, 2nd floor where the public health nurses' office and meet with families with children as part of the Women and Infants Clinics (WIC) and other maternal and child programs. A sign was posted in their lobby giving recognition to #881 and the KC program.

Patrick designed and printed in color an 3X5 inch card about the Coats program and a KC and St Felix and St Agnes named, which was inserted into the pocket of each coat.

Tammy was confident that her staff would reach enough families over a 2 week period and most of the coats were distributed by November 21st. Dan called her on the 21st reporting that one box of coats (larger sizes) was available.

On November 21, the last box was taken to the Public Health Department building and made available the week of Thanksgiving.

Tammy Fiedler letter of thanks follows:

“On Nov 21, 2025, at 11:04 AM, Fiedler, Tammy <tfiedler@co.wabasha.mn.us> wrote:

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the St. Felix Knights for their generous donation of winter coats for children in our community. This initiative was a tremendous success, bringing warmth, comfort, and much-needed support to families who need it most. We were truly honored to be part of such a meaningful act of kindness, and we are grateful for the Knights' continued commitment to helping our community thrive.

*Sincerely,
Tammy Fiedler
Wabasha County Public Health Director”*

Bulletin Insert November 29-30, 2025 with Picture from the St Felix Gymnasium Lobby



Council #881 of St Agnes and St Felix parishes *Thanks You* for your attendance at our pancake breakfasts. Your generosity allowed the Knights to give 96 winter coats to children in our community through the ***Coats for Kids***

program. New coats were distributed to families directly and in partnership with the Wabasha County Public Health.

Tammy Fiedler RN, Director, credits the Knights' initiative which: "brought warmth and comfort to families in need. Our staff felt the coat drive was a tremendous success and helped our community thrive.

Thanks to Leland and Gracelyn Leichtnam, Bill Hager, Patrick Derleth and Andy Dankwart.

Ken Kruse, Grand Knight

Recommendations for 2026

There is a demonstrated need in the community. Public Health is willing to partner again next year if the KC program continues. The Public Health and Social Services staff are in touch with the families in need and the recipients are familiar with the staff and location.

Tammy, when asked, did not recommend changing the size and quantity. We should speak with her prior to ordering if the program continues.

Jeani's hats were *a hit!* If she or other parishioners were willing to join the effort next year with hats and/or gloves, more parishioners would be involve others to meet a community need. A card of thanks to Jeani Tentis should be sent.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of Leland and Gracelyn Leichtnam, Bill Hager, Patrick Derleth, Andy Danckwart and Dan Schaefer.

Daniel Schaefer, Lecturer and Secretary

December 3, 2025

