



Homeless Gear



Homeless Gear is a program of The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, a 501c3 Non Profit Organization

“If each of us tries to help the homeless and those in poverty in one small way, eventually we can end homelessness. Homeless Gear helps those who endure the elements to survive not for the challenge of the mountain and the outdoors but to make it through the night.”

Sister Mary Alice Murphy

Mission:

The mission of Homeless Gear is a simple one. Collect unwanted outdoor gear (packs, sleeping bags, etc) and re-distribute these items to the homeless. Homeless Gear intends to find a home for all unwanted outdoor gear and make the outdoors a little more like home for those without permanent shelter.

Why:

A segment of the homeless community can not gain entrance into overnight shelters because they have issues with drug or alcohol use. Even if they do find overnight shelter they have to spend the majority of their day outside in the elements. Imagine what a sleeping bag would do for someone forced to sleep or spend the day in their car or under a bridge.

A large percentage of the homeless move from one location to another and need a means of transporting and storing their personal belongings. A pack (any size) is perfect to help them organize, store, and transport their personal property. Cardboard boxes, shopping carts, and other similar containers simply don't meet the needs of someone constantly on the move.

There are organizations already in place to provide the homeless with vital services such as shelter, medical care, food and substance abuse assistance. Boot and clothing drives are pretty common. We are not aware of any other organization that's central focus is on obtaining outdoor gear for the homeless.

Is Homelessness a problem in Colorado?

On Monday night, January 29th, 2007 there were an estimated 15,394 homeless men, women, and children in Colorado. Source: Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, January 2007.



Red, Sable (dog), Tammy and Rick receive two packs and a sleeping bag from Homeless Gear.



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4 Ways To Help:

- 1. Donate Gear.** Homeless Gear has drop-off and distribution locations throughout Colorado. Specific information about these sites can be found on our website on the "locations" page. If you have any problems getting to one of these locations, please contact Homeless Gear by e-mail ken@HomelessGear.com or call 970-581-4921. *See list of needed supplies at right.*
- 2. Donate Cash.** If you like what we are doing but simply don't have the gear to donate please consider giving us a tax deductible cash contribution. We will use your cash to go out and purchase discounted gear at closeouts, garage sales, and other value priced events. 100% of your cash donations will go to gear purchases! As one example, a \$20 donation can help us furnish a fresh pair of socks to 37 people!!
Send a check. Make the check out to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and please note Homeless Gear in the memo section. Mail your check to:
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Homeless Gear Program
4745 Wheaton Drive, Suite 100
Fort Collins, CO 80525
Donate online with a credit card from the secure link on our website (*go to the "how to help" page of our site*).
- 3. Buy Garage Sale Gear and Donate It!** If you see packs or sleeping bags at garage sales or other close out events please consider buying the items and donating them! Maybe the seller would consider making an outright donation if they knew about our program!
- 4. Spread the word about Homeless Gear to your friends.** This is largely a grass roots effort and we depend heavily on word of mouth to help spread our message.



Homeless Gear is all about collecting unwanted outdoor gear and redistributing these items to the homeless.

- Backpacks
- Daypacks
- Bookpacks (*School packs*)
- Sleeping Bags
- Sleeping Bag Pads
- Cots
- Tents (*small 1-3 person*)
- Stuff Sacks
- Small Tarps
- Water Bottles (*Nalgene Type*)
- Flashlights or Headlamps
- Battery Powered (*Small*) Alarm Clocks
- Camping/Backpacking Cook Sets
- Sunglasses
- Bike Locks
- Blankets
- Emergency "Space" Blankets
- Coats
- Jackets (*Spring or Summer*)
- Rain Coats & Rain Pants
- Rain Ponchos
- Sweatshirts With Hoods
- Hats, Scarves, Gloves
- Hand & Foot Warmers
- Boots
- Tennis Shoes
- Socks
- Insect Repellant & Sunscreen
- First Aid Kits and Supplies
- Batteries
- Personal Hygiene Items
(*soap, shampoo, razors, etc*)
- Bath Towels & Washcloths
- Duct Tape
- Small Sewing Kits
- Shoe Insoles
- Foot Powder

Contact Information:

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