

BROTHER KNIGHTS DISTRIBUTE COATS FOR KIDS

Tuesday evening, November 29, Brother Knights distributed 40 new coats to families in need. This was conducted as a part of the Supreme Council's Coats for Kids program. Coats for both boys and girls in various colors and sizes were available. One grateful mother reported that this is the first new coat her son has ever owned. The balance of the 72 coats was delivered to the Steele County Clothes Line to be distributed to others in need of a warm coat. This was a joint project financed by Council 945 and the Msgr. Henry Speck Assembly – Fourth Degree.

Many children throughout the United States and Canada go without a coat each winter. Many low-income families use their scarce resources to meet the most basic essentials and they need help to provide this vital winter necessity.

That's why the Knights of Columbus developed the Coats for Kids program, which allows Councils across North America the opportunity to purchase new winter coats for children at a discount and to distribute them to children in need in their local communities.

Through their Coats for Kids program, 1,625 local councils distributed 79,320 coats to children in need throughout the United States and Canada in 2015. Since the program began in 2009, more than 306,000 coats have been distributed.

Thanks to the following for their help with this project: Dennis Werner, Ken Thurnau, Matt Thurnau, Randy & Tammy Balausky, Gary & Deb Sanford, Dan Sawyer, Bill Lawrence, Lee & Ellyn Jardine, Tim & Linda Rice, Nic & Jo Matejcek.



Knights and Spouses are set to distribute "Coats for Kids". Pictured left to right; front row, Tammy Balausky, Deb Sanford, Linda Rice, Ellyn Jardine. Back row, Randy Balausky, District Deputy, Tim Rice, Project Chairman, Gary Sanford, Grand Knight, Dan Sawyer, Chancellor, Lee Jardine, Warden.



Knights of Columbus deliver new coats to the Steele County Clothes Line. Pictured left to right; Timothy Rice, Project Chairman, Alysta Olson, Operations Manager of Clothes Line, Dave Lax, Faithful Navigator and Gary Sanford, Grand Knight.



OWATONNA KCS HOST RICHARD ROHWER CHRISTMAS PARTY

BINGO! Was the word shouted out loudly and many times at Senior Place on Wednesday, December 7th. It was the site of the annual Richard Rohwer Christmas party which is sponsored by the Owatonna Knights of Columbus, Council 945. Event planner Russ Bowar works together with the Owatonna Park and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Director Wendy Reller to plan the party for those with developmental disabilities. The party is named after the late Richard Rohwer, a Knights of Columbus member, who spearheaded the event for many years. Richard passed away in 1991.

The fun evening kicked off with pizza and soda pop for all attendees followed by a visit from Santa Claus. This is just a precursor of the highlight for the evening, a rousing game of bingo. Russ Bowar, event planner for many years, had this comment, "It's really a good feeling to see their faces light up when they shout out Bingo! We make sure everyone wins. We Brother Knights win too, as we help these special people enjoy the holidays." There was also a highlight this year, a collection of 6 Santa Bears donated by the Leo Antl family were awarded by luck of the draw to six smiling recipients. Assisting the Knights this year were several OHS students from the YSL (Youth Service Leadership) program.

Big thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with this year's party: Bruce Born, Danny Born, Russ & Jan Bowar, Gerry Gunderson, Lee & Ellyn Jardine, Tim Rice, Walt & Joan Spindler, and Tony David.



Loraine Ripka was one of the lucky recipients of a Santa Bear at the Richard Rohwer Christmas Party. The Santa Bears were donated by the Leo Antl family.



Ashley Lyke proudly displaying her Santa Bear which she won at the Richard Rohwer Christmas Party.