



CLEAN CLOSETS FOR CAMPER'S!



Here is a chance for you to clean out the clutter in your clothes closet and benefit the children in your church and community.

Retreat and Camping Ministries of the Baltimore Washington Conference has partnered with Mission Partners in Western Pennsylvania to provide funds for camperships.

Here is how it works:

- Clean out your closets. Collect all those clothes you haven't worn in a long while and bring them to the church. Be sure to include shoes, purses, hats and bedding too!
- Once the church has 75 to 100 bags of clothes, Mission Partners will come to the church and collect the bags, take them back to their storage facility and weigh them.
- From there they will be sent to a facility that sorts them and gives them a new life. Where does the donated clothing go? Most donated items stay inside the U.S. and are made into reusable rags, eco-friendly insulation for homes or resold to thrift stores. A small percentage is sent abroad to companies that create jobs in the resale of affordable clothing.
- The church then receives a check directly from Mission Partners for 50% of the market value of the used clothing. In the Western PA Conference last year 75 churches participated and earned \$30,000! An average of \$4000 per church! Of course the amount received is dependent on how much is collected.

How did the program start? This program is relatively young. It has only been in the works for one year. Mission Partners was created by a Western PA United Methodist whose family is dedicated to the camping program through volunteerism. He wanted to find a way to make it easier to afford to send children and youth to camp. Once you sign up for the program they work directly with a designated person in your church.

How does your church sign up? Go to the Retreat and Camping Ministries web site (www.bwccampandretreats.org) and fill out the simple on line form or call the office at 800 922 6795. Once you are signed up, an email with some promotional materials will be sent to you to help publicize



the program to your church and community. Someone from Mission Partners will call to answer any questions and set up the process for collecting the clothing. And that's it! The next contact will be when you have enough clothes to come and be picked up!

Each church needs to collect about 75 to 100 bags of used clothes before a pick up is scheduled. If space is a problem then Mission Partners will provide a collection bin. There is no fee up front for this but there is a slight reduction in the amount of money compensated to the church for the bin in order to recoup the cost.

If 50 people each donate 5 shirts, 5 pairs of pants, and 5 pairs of shoes, your church will have raised enough money to send one child to summer camp!

For more information, please contact the Office of Retreat and Camping Ministries, 410 867 0991, 800 922 6795 or campretreat.info@verizon.net. And start collecting those clothes!

