



Shoes and Clothes for Kids

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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

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Kleats 4 Kids Supports Shoes and Clothes for Kids
Local Student Founds Organization to Provide Cleats to Kids

(CLEVELAND), August 28, 2008 – Shoes and Clothes for Kids received a generous donation of 100 new and reconditioned athletic cleats for kids in need from **Kleats 4 Kids**, an organization founded by high school student Andrew Pohly. The donation to Shoes and Clothes for Kids consisted of 50 pairs of brand new athletic cleats for boys and girls and 50 pairs of reconditioned cleats to be distributed to youth athletes in need in Greater Cleveland. Shoes and Clothes for Kids will provide the cleats to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland for their youth athletic programs.

Kleats 4 Kids' mission is to provide new or reconditioned athletic shoes to underprivileged youth athletes. The organization is staffed and managed by student athletes on a volunteer basis who conduct shoe drives, recondition used shoes, conduct fundraisers and seek contributions of new shoes. Pohly, a native of Willoughby, will be a senior at Phillips Academy, a private high school in Andover, Massachusetts, this fall. He was inspired to found **Kleats 4 Kids** while playing football at Gilmour Academy. Pohly noticed many players on the opponent's teams were wearing basketball shoes instead of football cleats, some of which were held together with duct tape. He began to set up boxes to collect used cleats and spent hours cleaning and restoring the cleats to like-new conditions.

Kleats 4 Kids is now an official student club at Phillips Academy and was awarded a \$4,100 grant from the Abbot Academy Association which funded the purchase of new cleats and administrative expenses. **Kleats 4 Kids** is in the process of applying to be an official 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under Ohio law. "Kleats 4 Kids gives athletes a way to help other athletes," said Pohly. "With busy school and practice schedules, this organization provides us with a meaningful way to do good for student athletes in need."

In 2007, **Kleats 4 Kids** donated 100 pairs of cleats each to Shoes and Clothes for Kids and the Boys and Girls Club in Lawrence, Massachusetts. **Kleats 4 Kids** hopes to expand its reach in 2008 to distribute 500 pairs of cleats nationally. Collection boxes have been placed at four local schools--John Carroll University, Ursuline College, Gilmour Academy Lower School and Hathaway Brown—as well as several schools in Massachusetts.

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For more information on **Kleats 4 Kids**, visit www.kleats4kids.org. Shoes and Clothes for Kids is the only non-profit organization in Greater Cleveland providing new shoes and clothes at no charge throughout the year to thousands of children in need. Through a network of 40 distribution partners, Shoes and Clothes for Kids positively impacts the lives of area children by giving them the self-esteem and confidence that comes from having brand new shoes and clothes. Founded in 1969, Shoes and Clothes for Kids will distribute new clothing and Payless shoe gift cards with a retail value of \$2,183,000 to 25,000 children from income-eligible families throughout Greater Cleveland in 2008. For more information, visit www.sc4k.org or call 216.881.SHOE(7463).

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