



MEDIA
RELEASE

Date: November 30, 2013
To: Assignment Editors
From: Rui Carrao, State Community Director – rcarrao@shaw.ca
Subject: British Columbia Knights of Columbus donate winter coats to needy children

SURREY – This afternoon, the Knights of Columbus distributed over 300 new winter coats to local children in Surrey. The program called “Coats for Kids” is an international initiative of the Knights of Columbus in its sixth year which will see more than 300,000 new coats given out this winter.

This is the third year in British Columbia for the program and the third major distribution organized by the State Council. State Deputy, Edward Shawchuk said, “it is truly heartwarming to see that each year the Coats for Kids program is more successful than the previous year”. Knights in several British Columbia communities including Victoria, Kelowna, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Prince George also distributed coats to children in their respective communities bringing the total number of coats distributed in BC to over 500 this year alone.

In addition to distributing coats, members from the local Surrey Councils of the Knights manned the kitchen to prepare hot dogs and hot chocolate for the children as well as coffee for the adults.

A Council of Chinese Knights in Vancouver has finalized plans to do a second major distribution of close to 120 coats on the downtown eastside on the Sunday before Christmas. In addition to providing a new winter coat, the Council has also committed to serving Christmas dinner to each child and their family. Mr. Shawchuk noted that “this tremendous community outreach is an example of the unlimited capacity within each of us to do something good for our neighbors and is in keeping with the tradition of the Knights”.

State Deputy Shawchuk noted that he is very proud of the work that the Knights do and is looking to his membership in the province to continue expanding this outreach program to more communities, and is hoping next year to take the State distribution to the interior of BC.

State Community Director, Rui Carrao has organized and participated in each of the three major State coats distributions. When asked why he puts so much time and effort into organizing this program Mr. Carrao said, “I’m not sure who gets more joy out of this program, the child receiving the coat or the Knights who are handing them out. I know that I feel I receive a great gift with each smile and every thank you. This distribution really brings home the Christmas spirit for me and my family and it would be hard to imagine a Christmas without a Coats distribution.”

The funding for the coats was obtained in cooperation with several of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The students and faculty were all excited that they could work together to help children in need.

The Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization, built on the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, with more than 1.8 million members worldwide. One of the most active charity groups in North America, last year, Knights donated nearly \$155 million and 70 million hours to charitable causes around the world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

