

Clothing Bank and Clothing Donations Committee

This committee is responsible for ensuring that the refugees each receive one change of clothing upon arriving at the site. This committee must work closely with the Site Director.

- **Clothing Bank**

- Identifying a list of all needed clothing bank supplies—used clothing in smaller sizes for babies, children, men, and women. Jackets and sweaters are helpful in cold weather. New underwear and new socks are greatly appreciated.
- Obtaining these supplies via donation as much as possible—coordinate with the Site Director about adding your needed supplies to the site donation wishlist
- Soliciting donations of missing/needed items or coordinate to possibly have needed items delivered from Annunciation House
- Establishing an area in which clothing donations can be sorted for usable items and determining a plan for where unusable items will be donated (such as to Candlelighters or St. Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army).
- Establishing a clothing bank that the refugees can access to obtain a change of clothing upon arriving at the site
- Keeping clothing as organized as possible and restocking supplies as needed—guests are great at helping to keep the clothing bank organized!
- Establishing a system by which the refugees can receive their change of clothing in the most organized and efficient way possible.
- Annunciation House suggests that each refugee is only provided with one change of clothing—there are generally insufficient donations to allow for refugees to get more than one change of clothing.
- Annunciation House suggests that volunteers assist the guests in picking out their outfits in order to help the process to go as fast as possible. Likewise, Annunciation House suggests limiting each guests' access to the clothing bank to a certain period of time (i.e., 5-10 minutes).

Years of experience have taught us that people love to give away their used clothing!

Unfortunately, the used clothing that we receive is not always what we need.

Therefore, we suggest that sites be very specific when asking for donations; otherwise, volunteers might find themselves stuck spending many, many hours sorting through donations that are not very useful to the guests (such as prom dresses & snow suits).

Additionally, almost all of the female refugees arriving are fairly petite and wear small and medium size shirts and pants in sizes 8 and smaller. The men are also generally fairly short and thin. Children are also usually fairly thin as well.

At many sites—depending on volunteer availability—the “Clothing Bank & Clothing Donations Committee” merges with the “Toiletries & Medical Supplies Committee” to form one “Clothing, Toiletries, & Medical Supplies Committee”