

Monongahela Free Clothing Drive

By Sister Heather Nicklow

“And also ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto to him that standeth in need” – Mosiah 4:16

King Benjamin spoke these words to his people so that they could understand that as the children of God that they had an opportunity and obligation to share their substance with those that stand in need. King Benjamin understood that this was not just an opportunity to share of the natural substance but to share of the love of God that has been bestowed upon us all. On Saturday, February 2nd we were immensely blessed to hold our first free clothing drive for the community. For many months prior, the Monongahela branch members generously donated clothes from themselves, and their family and friends. Ads were posted in the local newspapers and television station and fliers were put up everywhere. The night before the clothing drive the branch met together to sort, fold, and hang the clothes they had collected. It wasn't until they started this process did the brothers and sisters realize the immense amount of clothes they were able to collect. The tables were lined up and piled high with pants, shirts, jackets, suits, and even warm blankets and pillows. Saturday morning we met together to start our day off with fasting and prayer. Many prayers were offered on behalf of the day hoping that we would be able to help members of the community that stood in need.

After the meeting was over the brothers and sisters started to hang signs and prepare food that was to be given out to those who came. We were officially to open the doors at 11 a.m. but people started pouring in around 10:30. What a blessing it was to see individuals coming into the church to receive of the abundance that God has given us. Many people were amazed that the clothes were free. People were also astonished that the church provided free hot dogs, sauerkraut, cookies, lemonade, and coffee to anyone who wanted. Although the day was simply about providing for the natural needs of the community, many brothers and sisters had an opportunity to share the restored gospel with inquisitive visitors. It was such a blessing to be able to serve our neighbors who are in need. I know that they saw the love and compassion of our brothers and sisters. One lady was even brought to tears that people would provide all these simple necessities free of charge. Praise God that we have the abundance and ability to help those in need. It was estimated that more than eighty people came through the branch's doors. With the great success we had in helping the community the branch is looking to make this an annual event.