

Donate your clothes and shoes

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To meet an identified clothing need, the Cone Park Branch Library is accepting new and gently used clothing and shoes to distribute to the community during the first-ever Recycling Clothes Day.

Needed are new or gently used clothing free of stains, holes, pet hair and smoke odor, suitable for spring and summer and in all sizes, from infants to adults. Shoes also are needed.

Donations can be dropped off from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday through April 15 at the Cone Park library at 2841-A E. University Ave.

The shoes and clothing will be distributed during Recycling Clothes Day, which will be held from 2:30-5:30 p.m. April 22 at Cone Park.

The event is being hosted by Cone Park Library and the Library Resource Center, located at the library and staffed by Partnership for Strong Families.

Jennifer Johnson, Cone Park library manager, said many visitors who come to the library are in need of clothing for job interviews and clothing for their children, especially for school. Because of space limitations, the library does not have a clothes closet, but Recycling Clothes Day will provide an opportunity to get clothing and shoes to those who need them.

"This will help us serve this community," Johnson said.

Linda Cue, Cone Park librarian, said what is needed is clothes and shoes suitable for children from birth to teens and all types of clothing for adults — males and females — including casual, business and church attire.

"School clothing is the biggest need," Cue said. "When it's cold, we see children in shorts, no sweaters or jackets. Clothing can be very expensive and I think there is a big need in this community."

Jenn Petion, director of community and government relations at Partnership for Strong Families, said by this time of year, children have outgrown school clothes purchased at the beginning of the school year or have worn them out.

"So having fresher clothes to finish the school year really makes a big difference," Petion said. "It's a great opportunity as we're cleaning for the spring and looking through our closets to give items we are no longer wearing to someone who really needs them."

Cue said the amount of donations will determine how many residents can be helped.

"I'm hoping for a lot of donations," Cue said. "I think it's important. "It's not about books only. At the same time, we need to serve the needs of the community and clothing is a community's need."

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