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News / Toronto

New space donated to Toronto clothing drive for refugees

The Clothing Drive had a good problem: They had more donations than they could handle.








TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Toronto clothing drive (called The Clothing Drive) collecting items for refugees was worried it might have to shut down after its lease was up on their warehouse space until a donation came through.

By: Staff Torstar News Service Published on Sun Dec 06 2015

A Toronto-based project collecting donated clothes for Syrian refugees fleeing to Canada benefitted from a donation of their own on Friday.

The Clothing Drive was in danger of being left out in the cold after the temporary lease was up on a storage space the project had been using for the past two weeks, the Star reported on Thursday.

Luckily, the project wasn't without a location for long. Three GTA business partners — Paul Goldfischer, CEO of Solotex Corporation, and Vince Petrozza and Jawad Rathore, principals of Fortress Real Developments — donated one of their retail spaces to the project late Friday.

Organizers Laura-Jean Bernhardson and Julie Mahfouz were able to pick up the keys that evening, and with the help of volunteers began moving into the new space at 1682 Victoria Park Ave. on Saturday.

While move-in day was mostly comprised of tidying and beginning to sort and hang clothes, the project is searching for volunteers to help unload 450 bins currently in storage on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The positive response received so far has been overwhelming. In fact, Bernhardson said that the project is currently taking a step back from accepting additional clothing donations until their current inventory can be properly sorted and they are able to identify the most needed items.

“Oh my gosh, we have so many clothes right now,” said Bernhardson.

Beyond volunteers, the project is looking for donations of hangers, clothing racks and shoe racks. They intend to set up the new space as a sort of “shop” from which clothing can be distributed.

So far The Clothing Project has successfully clothed at least three refugee families in the GTA.