

MediaPlex cleared their closets for clothing drive



*Clothing donations from the Clear Your Closet Clothing Drive are unloaded at the Downtown Mission of Windsor. More than 1,000 items of clothing were donated in total — Photo by Glen Bacarro.*

By Rhiannon Lotze

The first ever Clear Your Closet Clothing Drive was hosted in St. Clair College's MediaPlex to gather donations for local charities.

From December 4 to December 8, more than 30 garbage bags of gently used clothing were donated and delivered to the Street Help Homeless Centre of Windsor and the Downtown Mission of Windsor. The donations come at a time when Windsor estimates there are at least 201 residents—emergency levels—living on the streets on any given night, according to the city's first Homelessness Partnering Strategy Point in Time survey.

"I do call it a crisis," said Christine Wilson-Furlonger, administrator of Street Help, in an interview with the Windsor Star. "There should not be that many people sleeping outdoors. This is Canada, it's cold out there."

The clothing drive was organized by public relations students Glen Bacarro, Hannah Russo and Rhiannon Lotze.

“We wanted to support our home community,” said Glen Bacarro, about the decision to hold the Clear Your Closet Clothing Drive. “And I’m really proud of our family and friends, and our community, for coming out in support of those in need in Windsor.”

Bacarro also said the drive was initially meant to help those affected in Houston, Texas by this year’s hurricane season but after seeing how much help was needed in Windsor, he and his team made the decision to keep their event close to home.

In total, more than 1,000 items of clothing as well as several sleeping bags will go to helping the homeless population of Windsor.