

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops
3815 E. Main Street, Ste. D
Contact: Alyssa Phelps
(630) 513-8200 ext. 121
APhelps@Merlins.com
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Children's Home + Aid
125 S. Wacker Drive
Maureen Kelly
(312) 424-6871
MKelly@Childrenshomeandaid.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help Your Neighbors Stay Warm This Winter

Donations of winter outerwear are needed to help warm local children for the upcoming months

ST. CHARLES, Ill. – The 26th annual Snug Hugs for Kids™ winter clothing drive begins Oct. 24 and concludes on Dec. 14. New or like-new winter items sized to fit newborn to 18 year old children can be dropped off at your local Merlin 200,000 Miles Shop. Items most needed are coats, hats, scarves, mittens, pants, sweaters, boots and socks. Your generosity protects more than 40,000 children served each year by Children's Home + Aid, a leading provider of quality programs and services to families in need, from the snow and winds during winter.

“With the blustery months fast approaching, many families will need a little extra help to provide their children the necessary winter clothing to allow them to attend school or play outside. A donation of clothing helps warm both the hands and hearts of the local recipient,” said Merlin 200,000 Miles Director of Marketing Penny McDowell.

In addition to the in-shop clothing drive, Snug Hugs for Kids uses the following three programs to support its efforts

1. Warm Hands & Hearts Little Red Mitten is a fund raising campaign to help sustain Children's Home + Aid services and programs threatened by funding cuts. You can purchase a paper mitten for \$1 in a Merlin Shop or visit www.merlins.com/donate or www.childrenshomeandaid.org/snughugsforkids-donate to make an online donation.
2. The Crochet & Knit-A-Thon recruits crafters nationwide to donate their time, materials and talents to hand craft clothing for Children's Home + Aid. Donations can be made to your local Merlin Shop or during the celebratory event in November. Details are available at www.merlins.com/ckat.
3. Kids Helping Kids recruits children to collect and donate as a group to earn a collectible patch. Groups that participate include Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, church, school and youth organizations.

On Dec. 14, Merlin franchisees, corporate staff and vendor partners will deliver all the donations to strategically located Children's Home + Aid family centers. Over 30 Merlin vans and vendor trucks will form a caravan to deliver an anticipated 9+ tons of clothing.

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About Children's Home + Aid

Children's Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. The organization helps children recover their health, their hope, and their faith in the people around them. We link children to a network of opportunity and care, to extended family, teachers, mentors, and the resources of the neighborhood and community. For more than 130 years, the organization has gone wherever children and families need them, and where that work has been proven to be most effective: at home, in the classroom, in the neighborhood, in the course of daily life. The organization has offices located across Illinois and serves more than 40,000 children and families in over 60 counties each year. For more information about Children's Home + Aid, visit childrenshomeandaid.org.

About Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops offer a neighborhood approach to automotive service and provides both repair and maintenance services as well as tire replacement and tire services. Merlin's DRIVE FOR 200,000, the industry's most comprehensive and affordable maintenance program, supports vehicle owners thousands of miles beyond the usual manufacturer's maintenance requirements and has positioned Merlin as the leader in vehicle longevity. Founded in 1975, Merlin is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois. In February 2014, Driven Brands acquired Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops. For more information, please visit www.merlins.com.

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