

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Collected New or Slightly Used Summer Clothes for Iraqi Children

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 John Street, Westborough held a summer clothing drive for Iraqi children. The new or slightly used clothes was mailed to and distributed by St. Stephen's adopted soldier in Iraq. The clothes were given to the children by American soldiers who patrol the streets. Some of these children have only one set of clothes. This is a great opportunity to help the innocent victims of the war, whose families have been devastated by the fighting and to improve relations between Iraqis and Americans.

St. Stephen's thanks the town of Westborough for its support thus far and hopes that the response will continue. The following thank you came from St. Stephen's adopted soldier in Iraq:

"I am so excited that all of you have chosen to support this project and I am overwhelmed by the quantity of items collected..... When 1SG dropped off the first batch of clothes, they were on their way out to patrol, by the time they came back through the area on their way back to FOB Loyalty, the children had changed into the clean clothes and were playing with the few toys I had pulled together to send out. They looked so happy and were waving and blowing kisses to the soldiers. Additionally, other soldiers have commented on a noticeable change in the overall "climate" when out on mission. The adults they see are more likely to report people who are not following laws or who are known terrorists hiding in our area. That was not what I was thinking about when I started this, but if giving clothing to children will help me get home to mine, I am all for it.

Thank you so much for your support. My mom says that taking care of my daughter is her "mission" while I am here doing my mission. Well, your hard work and dedication in collecting these clothes and toys for the children of these little known and little seen neighborhoods was your mission. You have succeeded, and have provided not only happy smiles and waves from beautiful children, but also hope. These children have nothing, they have been almost robbed of their childhoods, but in one action, you are giving some small piece back to them. That means so much. THANK YOU! You are all wonderful and I am grateful to each and every one of you."



