



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: (530) 666-8042 ▪ Fax: (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

Jenny Tan
Communications Coordinator
Jenny.Tan@yolocounty.org

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Contact: Jenny Tan, Communications Coordinator
W: (530) 666-8042 ▪ C: (530) 908-8170

Public Defender's Office Hosts Annual Clothing Drive

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Public Defender's Office's Social Work Program invites the public to donate used clothing to help benefit indigent community members involved in the criminal justice system.

The clothing closet is a resource for anyone incarcerated in Yolo County Jail and provides these individuals with clean, weather appropriate clothing during their transition from custody to the community. The clothing drive has received wonderful support from the community in the past, resulting in helping some of the county's neediest residents.

"Our office truly appreciates the generous clothing donations each year," said Yolo County Social Worker Deanna Lynn-Steele. "These donations make a big difference in our clients' lives and have the ability to set them up for a successful transition back into the community."

Since the last clothing drive, dozens of homeless and indigent individuals being released from the jail were provided with clean, weather appropriate clothing. In addition, the post-release clothing closet contributes to the jail's inmate welfare clothing bin, which provides clothing to individuals released from jail if they have not already requested a spare change of clothes. Aside from standard articles of clothing (pants, shirts, jackets, etc.), the post-release clothing helps provide small toiletries, bags, and even blankets to those getting out of the jail with no personal property.

"This year we are more focused on filling in holes within the post-release clothing closet and making sure we have enough of the most requested items and sizes," said Yolo County Social Worker Emily Kochly.

In addition to underwear, backpacks, sweatpants, and men's and women's shoes, the post-release clothing closet's wish list includes: men's pants (waist sizes 34, 36, 38, 40); men's jackets and sweatshirts (sizes XL and XXL); men's short and long-sleeved shirts (sizes XL, XXL, and XXXL); rain ponchos; hats; and travel-sized toiletries.

"The reasons for homelessness are unique to each individual and the solutions are as complicated as the day is long. What I know for sure is that when the weather turns cold, our homeless community members feel it more than anyone else," said Yolo County Public Defender Tracie Olson. "As the holidays approach and people reflect on what they are thankful for, we're hoping

they'll also remember those that are less fortunate. With a full closet, we can help provide a measure of warmth and care to those most in need.”

From November through February, donated items can be dropped off at the lobby of the Public Defender's Office, located at 814 North Street in Woodland, Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Public Defender Social Worker Program at: (530) 666-8165, ext. 9930.

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