

Program could provide new school clothes

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Purchasing a new wardrobe for the coming school year is an impossible task for some families who struggle to even put food on the table.

A Willow Island resident hopes to launch a program in Gothenburg that would help such families.

Henry Potter formed the L2 For Kids program in Perkins County when he lived in Elsie and now he's interested in a similar project for Gothenburg area families.

Working through local churches, Potter takes donations and turns them into a one-time shopping trip for families who could not otherwise buy new clothes for their children.

"It is amazing what a new set of clothes will do for a child's self-esteem and dedication to school," Potter said.

Potter said the organization in Perkins County worked through a board of directors and one member always accompanied the family shopping.

He said with roughly \$100, students could get new jeans, shirts, socks, underwear and shoes.

"With inflation, it might take a little bit more now," he said.

Potter said pastors at Gothenburg's First Baptist Church and Evangelical Free Church are on board with the idea. He hopes other congregations will follow.

"I realize we're getting this going pretty late for this school year," he said, "but we will purchase

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clothes for kids as the money becomes available.”

Potter said he has already received a few donations for this year.

Since the program works on a first-come, first-served basis, families need to get their applications completed quickly.

For additional information or to volunteer, contact Potter at 308-530-0441 or e-mail him at hppotter@cozadtel.net.