SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS
Our story began with

compassion.
A young boy was in pain because his shoes were three sizes too small and worn out. His feet were bleeding and covered in blisters. He had no one who could help.
Realizing this was a large, unmet need among disadvantaged youth in our community, a small group of people decided to help.
It soon became obvious

that there were thousands of children in need; it was going to take a community-wide effort to make a difference...one child at a time.
We got to work.

Soon a vision took shape. Plans were made, fundraising began, and shoes and socks were bought and stored.
In January of 2010 we started putting brand new shoes and socks on kids in need. Nothing like this had ever been done in our community.
In our first six months of operation, we became a nationally recognized organization by winning the Pepsi Refesh competition in the “Community good idea” category. Area foundations and other individual donors quickly rallied behind the kids we help. This funding and recognition changed everything. We started dreaming big.....
But the heart of our mission remained the same.
An estimated 15,000 local children go to school every day wearing shoes that would break your heart. They don’t fit, or they are not fit to wear. Or they wear flip flops or snow boots all year. Even in the coldest, wettest weather, they do not have the luxury of wearing a warm pair of socks.

Until now, this need has been largely unmet.
Thanks to the hard work of many, we now help thousands of kids in our community every year.
We have partnered with every school district, as well as many social agencies and organizations who serve the needy. We are effectively reaching the kids who need us.
Along the way, we noticed that the same kids who need shoes and socks, also need underwear. We distribute hundreds of pairs of underwear to every school we serve. We call this Brief Blessings.
We also noticed that the kids we help have a huge desire to help others. Wanting to encourage that desire, we partnered with Dayton Children’s Hospital to create Kindness Matters. Kids in buildings we serve make and deliver get-well cards to patients in Children’s hospital. Thousands of sick or injured children have been encouraged by a hand-made card from another child.
The love and kindness of our mission just keeps growing.
Our story will end when the need for shoes, socks and underwear ends. Until then, we will continue to live out our faith through our mission.

Thank you for helping make it all possible. It matters.