

Donate winter coats to help kids in need

Julia Rabar

WINTER coats that no longer fit their growing owners are the target of the St Kilda Mums Coats for Kids appeal.

Oakleigh mother Nicky Predl and children Grace, 9, and Alex, 6, dug deep in their wardrobes this year and found four coats to donate.

"No child should be without a coat in winter. They should be able to walk to school or play outside and be warm," Mrs Predl said.

"And children grow so quickly — have a look in your cupboard and you might have two or three coats that no longer fit."

St Kilda Mums is hoping to find 2000 coats for babies and children in need across Melbourne during this year's annual Coats for Kids drive, with donations of other warm clothing also welcome.

Chief executive Jessica Macpherson said the need was acute as the cold weather set in.

"Now that the weather is getting chilly, there are many families not able to keep their children warm, or allow them to play outside due to an inability to afford warm clothing," Ms Macpherson said.

COATS FOR KIDS

- The campaign is being run by St Kilda Mums, a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation that is based in St Kilda
- The group rehomes new and pre-loved baby goods and nursery equipment to families in need
- As part of the campaign, the group would love coats, but will gladly accept all warm clothing, including hats, gumboots, gloves and scarfs

"Good-quality, second-hand coats, free of marks and stains, with working zips and hoods, are needed to quickly distribute to an estimated 2000 Melbourne babies and children in the coming months."

The organisation's Coats for Kids appeal will run until Friday, July 31, with schools, kindergartens, childcare centres and workplaces encouraged to hold coat drives.

Details: stkildamums.org/donate/coats-for-kids or email donate@stkildamums.org for a list of drop-off points.

Nicky Predl with her children Grace, 9, and Alexander, 6.

Picture: STEVE TANNER

