

To all the Angels at Shoes That Fit,

I just want to say a huge thank you for all you do for us and for bringing a brilliant light to our sometimes not so bright jobs.

I want to tell you about a little boy we'll call Paul.

I went to an elementary school to help measure feet... One little boy in particular caught my attention. He thought he was in trouble when he was sent to the office; apparently he visits the office frequently!! He had a glint in his eyes and was just a bundle of energy. His shoes were in tatters and he said they had been his brother's. His socks had so many holes he might as well have worn nothing and it was obvious he had not had a bath in quite a while. He was embarrassed and was covering it up by being goofy and silly.

He was curious about the way I spoke; he said I talked funny. When I told him I was from Ireland he wondered if I knew any leprechauns. Of course I lied and told him my Grandpa was one. His eyes grew to twice their size when he heard this and he just couldn't hear enough about leprechauns. He said when he got big he was going to Ireland and catch one!

When it came time to give out the shoes I made sure I was there to see Paul get his. Talk about excitement! The kids were behaving as if Santa had come early. They were comparing their new shoes and just grinning from ear to ear. Paul, on the other hand, was the opposite; he was very quiet and just kept looking at his shoes as if they were going to disappear. He put on his new socks and finally the shoes and still hasn't said a word. I asked him if they fit and he looked up and I noticed he had tears in his big blue eyes. He said they fit great and the socks felt soft. I asked him why he was sad and he said he wasn't sad but so happy. He had never been given a brand new pair of shoes before and they felt so different. He came over to me and gave me a huge hug and whispered "thank you."



They all went back to class and a couple of weeks later I asked Paul's teacher how he was doing. She said he was taking great care of his new shoes and he had not been sent to the office one time since he got them. According to his teacher he had stopped his attention seeking behavior in class and seemed more focused.

Did his new shoes bring about the change? I like to think so. I think of him often and can still hear the 'thank you' in my ear. It is one of the few real thank yous I've heard in my life.

So you see, angels, this is one of the awesome things we get to experience thanks to you and Shoes That Fit. I want to say thank you, like Paul, from the heart.

THANK YOU.

Bernadette Gallagher
Child Welfare and Attendance
Fontana Unified School District

In the spirit of the season-give a gift donation through Shoes That Fit

This holiday season, would you like to avoid the malls, forget the long post office lines and make the parking lot crush just a bad memory? Instead, give a lasting memory and bring



the true spirit of the holidays home this year by making a gift donation to Shoes

That Fit in honor of your loved ones. It's so easy—simply visit our website at www.shoesthatfit.org or call us toll free at (888) 715-4333 and we will help you with your donation.

We will send the honoree a letter acknowledging your gift and a thank you note that we received from a child helped by the Shoes That Fit program. You can also request that your loved ones send a donation to Shoes That Fit in lieu of gifts to you. Either way, you will be providing new shoes and clothes to children in need so that they can attend school in comfort and with dignity. It's a gift these children will never forget.



Make your donation by visiting our website at www.shoesthatfit.org or call our office toll free at (888) 715-4333.