

Y offering discount for winter clothing donations

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

With winter just around the corner, YMCA of Northwest North Carolina branches are collecting new or gently used coats, gloves, scarves and hats for local children.

Now through Oct. 31, potential members will receive a \$19 joining fee when they donate these items. The special joining fee, with a donation, is a savings of up to \$80 depending on the type of membership. Current YMCA members can refer a friend to receive \$25 off their next month's dues.

This is the Y's last membership campaign of the year, and it aims to help children and families struggling to make ends meet.

"We don't want to wait for the first frost to be sure local children have warm clothes to wear this winter," said Mark Bachman, senior VP and COO of the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina. "Studies show the numbers of children living in poverty in our community is on the rise. As a community organization, the Y's members and potential members can make a real impact for those children by encouraging donations and supporting our neighbors in need."

North Carolina's overall poverty rate is above the national average, with one in every four N.C. children living in poverty. In Forsyth County, an estimated 24 percent of children are living in poverty.

The Y works with other nonprofits and local agencies to deliver all donated winter items to children in need. Community partners include Forsyth County Department of Social Services, Iredell-Statesville School System, King Outreach Ministries, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Davie County, Yadkin County Department of Social Services and the Barium Springs Home for Children.

Learn more at www.ymcanwnc.org.



Members of the Kidane Mehret Ethiopian Orthodox Church model colorful cultural garb.

City of W-S Photo

City's diversity celebrated at International Row

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Human Relations Department partnered with the City of Winston-Salem Marketing Department to stage International Row on Sept. 22, during the most recent Rock the Block street festival. International Row, held in Corpening Plaza, showcased the diversity of Winston-Salem through global cuisine, entertainment and crafts, all while educat-

ing and broadening minds.

Entertainment attractions included demonstrations by the TRU Taekwondo Center, dancing by the Indo-US Cultural Arts Association and World Artists Mosaic, Latin-inspired rock and roll by Sol, a fashion show by members of The Kidane Mehret Ethiopian Orthodox Church of the Triad, African drumming by students from Wiley Middle School

and infectious sets by musical storytellers The Healing Force and Reggae band Lion Tracks.

The Row's Kid's Zone had inflatables, sidewalk chalk art, and face painting, which was sponsored by the Youth Advisory Council. Additionally, more than 20 vendors were set up in the area, offering everything from jewelry to Henna tattoos and food.

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