

TOWN OF VERNON

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Vernon Seventh Grader Tommy Glinski Kicks-Off 5th Annual 'Socktober' Campaign to Help Cornerstone Foundation

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Tommy Glinski, a seventh grader at Vernon Center Middle School, is in the midst of another “Socktober” campaign to collect socks for people who are homeless.

He has collected more than 1,500 pairs of socks and nearly \$1,000 in four years to aid Vernon’s Cornerstone Foundation, which serves the area’s homeless population. And Tommy is hoping this year’s effort is the biggest yet.



Tommy Glinski, right, drops off Socktober collection boxes at Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne’s office.

Tommy began collecting socks for the Cornerstone Foundation in 2016, when he was a third grader at Northeast School in Vernon. He was looking for a way to help his community, learned about Socktober and contacted Bryan Flint at Cornerstone.

“I wanted to try to make a difference, to help people,” Tommy said. “And I learned that this really simple gesture, providing new socks for people, was a good way to help.”

The Cornerstone Foundation operates a homeless shelter that serves Vernon and several other communities. It also has a clothing bank and a variety of other programs to help people.

“We went to Cornerstone to see what they needed,” Tommy said. “They said they were really low on socks.”

Tommy asked his teachers at Northeast School and Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne for help spreading the word about Socktober and placing collection boxes around town. That first year people donated 200 pairs of socks.

When Tommy moved to Center Road School in Vernon for fourth grade, he asked his teachers if he could continue Socktober there. They loved the idea and more socks were collected for the Cornerstone Foundation. Tommy has kept it going since.

“When Tommy asked for some help, I was glad to do what I could,” Mayor Champagne said. “It’s great to see young people take an interest in helping their community, especially our residents who need a hand. Tommy’s interest in helping others is a great example of the kind of community spirit we see in Vernon on a regular basis. And it illustrates what a great community Vernon is.”

Flint said the Cornerstone Foundation is usually able to help people with second-hand clothing donated to its clothing bank. “We have shirts and pants and jackets and shoes,” Flint said. “If you get those used, it really doesn’t matter.”

But socks and underwear are a different matter, he said. “Quite reasonably, no one wants used socks or underwear,” Flint said. “For clothing that is the closest to your body, we try to provide folks with new socks and underwear.”

Flint said that Cornerstone does not just aid people who are homeless. Sometimes people show up at Cornerstone’s door soaking wet because they have been out in the rain. People can come in, take a shower and get a set of clean, dry clothes, he said. And new socks and underwear. Flint asks that in addition to socks, people consider donating a package of underwear too.

Tommy said that all kinds of socks are needed – for men, women and children – and asks that people place their donations in collection boxes that have been placed at the Vernon Police Department, Vernon Town Hall, Rockville High School, Skinner Road School, Maple Street School and Vernon Center Middle School. The Socktober campaign runs through Nov. 20.



Tommy Glinski, a seventh grader at Vernon Center Middle School, is collecting socks for the Cornerstone Foundation to give to people who need them.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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