

**For Immediate Release**

**December 4th, 2025**

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## **Worcester County Sheriff's Office Warms Communities with Annual Winter Coat Distribution**

**[Worcester County]** — **Throughout November**, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office visited Gardner CAC, Alyssa's Place, Restoration Recovery, Community Health Connections, Leominster Police Department, Leominster Women's Recovery Center, Spanish American Center, and several other local nonprofits to deliver hundreds of brand-new winter coats for community members in need.

These Northern Worcester County visits were part of the Sheriff's Office **Annual Winter Coat Drive**, which included more than **thirty stops** countywide. The Sheriff's Office distributed **4,000 winter jackets during November**. All jackets were purchased by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association, a nonprofit that raises funds year-round to support the coat drive and other community-focused programs.

"The Sheriff's Annual Winter Coat Drive has made a tremendous impact on Alyssa's Place, ensuring our members have the warmth and dignity they deserve through the cold months," commented Brady Wagoner, Program Director at Alyssa's Place Peer Recovery & Resource Center. "Each donation not only meets a basic need but strengthens the sense of care and community we strive to build every day. This generosity extends far beyond our center, touching families throughout the greater Gardner community and reminding us all of the power of showing up for one another."

"Handing out these coats each year is truly a joy," said Sheriff Evangelidis. "They represent far more than a warm layer for winter. They reflect a community and law enforcement organization that cares. The individuals who receive these jackets are always grateful, and this drive gives our department a special opportunity to connect with the communities we serve."

This year's initiative was made possible thanks to the generosity of many community partners, including **Saint Francis Community Health Care, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation, The Krock Family & Commerce Associates, CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook, Diamond Auto Group, KAL Construction & Remodeling, Chop Chop Convenience, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local 550 Worcester County Correction Officers, Pat's Service Center, Quality Companies, Rockland Trust Bank, and Pam Massad in memory of 'Duddie' and Bette Massad**, along with numerous additional supporters.

"The level of support we receive each year is remarkable," added Sheriff Evangelidis. "Every contribution directly helps make our communities stronger and safer."

Beyond their stops in North County, Sheriff Evangelidis and his team delivered coats to nonprofits in the greater Worcester area and Southern Worcester County, ensuring residents across the region have access to warm winter apparel as the cold weather approaches.