

Cal Farley's

P.O. Box 1890 • Amarillo, TX 79174-0001 • 806-372-2341 or toll-free 1-800-687-3722

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Area Lions Clubs Provide Cal Farley's Children with Clothing during Annual Coat & Shoe Shopping Spree

The District 2-T1 Lions Clubs of the Texas Panhandle will continue a long-standing tradition of helping Cal Farley's Boys Ranch children purchase clothing for Christmas on **Sunday, November 9, at Sears in Westgate Mall**. The volunteers will join the boys and girls of Cal Farley's for a couple of hours of shopping beginning at 1:45 p.m.

This year, almost 60 boys and girls from Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Family Resource Center in Amarillo will benefit from the Lions' generosity. Each child will shop for approximately \$160 worth of clothing.

Thirty-nine years ago, the District 2-T1 Lions Clubs of the Texas Panhandle began a tradition of raising money to take the girls from Girlstown, U.S.A. shopping. The trip was originally intended to help each Girlstown girl purchase a nice winter coat and a pair of nice shoes. Through the years the event has changed little by little and now the boys and girls at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Family Resource Center in Amarillo are participating in the fun.

As a result of the generosity of the Lions, the children are able to buy more than just a coat and a pair of shoes. Each child receives a specified amount of money from the shopping fund. After a coat and a pair of shoes are selected, the children are able to spend the rest of their allotment on other needed clothing.

The shopping excursion is held at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season in November. For the past three years, Sears in Amarillo's Westgate Mall has hosted the shopping trip. The Sears store offers the Lions a generous discount on all items purchased during the event.

The Lions' contributions include more than the funds to purchase the clothing. Many area Lions will spend their Sunday afternoon as volunteers to assist the boys and girls as they shop. Lions and Lionesses, their spouses, family members and other volunteers shop with the boys and girls. The volunteers give their advice on clothing selections while keeping a running tab of the purchases.

According to one Lions Club member several years ago, "My wife wouldn't let me miss this if I wanted to. It's kind of infectious, seeing the girls and their anticipation, and the joy in their eyes as they get the clothes they want," he said. "The girl we shopped with thanked us so many times—she was so appreciative."