



## **About Cradles to Crayons**

Cradles to Crayons has a special niche, and—in its three host cities—meets a critical need. More than 305,000 Massachusetts children 12 years old and younger live in low-income or poverty-stricken households. In any given year, more than 100,000 Massachusetts children will experience homelessness.

But statistics don't get to the heart of what we do. We help kids in poverty: kids who don't have shoes that fit, or a coat warm enough to fend off winter winds, or a backpack to take their books and supplies to and from school. When kids don't have these basics, they suffer. They have a hard time learning in school. They don't feel valued.

## **The Mission**

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. We supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with communities that need.

## **The Model**

Cradles to Crayons collects new and nearly new children's items through grassroots community drives and corporate donations. Donations are then processed and packaged by volunteers, and are distributed to disadvantaged children across the state through a collaborative network of social service agencies and school partners.

## **The Project:**

The YMCA of the North Shore is partnering with Cradles to Crayons to host donation centers at each local Y (Beverly, Gloucester, Ipswich, Salem, Marblehead, Haverhill and Plaistow) from May 22nd-June 10th. On June 10th we will host a sporting event at the Lynch Van Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead, where we will sort through hundreds of bags of clothes and help sort them into categories for easy distribution to children in need.

Here is how you can help:

1. Donate your children's old clothing, books, toys at one of our local Y Cradles to Crayons Boxes (Cape Ann Y- 71 Middle St, Gloucester MA 01930)
2. Volunteer! Great event for volunteers of all ages to come out and help sort and create bags for children in need. All clothing collected will go to children in our local communities.