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### Gardner-Webb University Helps Sponsor Spring Coat Drive

Office of University Communications

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# Gardner-Webb University Helps Sponsor Spring Coat Drive

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Office of University  
Communications

March 28, 2017

## *Coats to Be Collected on Campus Through April 19*

**By Katie Furr, ('20) GWU Intern for Communications**

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University is partnering to help with the Seventh Annual WLOS/Eblen Charities Spring Clean Coat Drive in Asheville, N.C. Coat collection begins April 3 on the Gardner-Webb campus and will continue through April 19. The community is invited to join GWU in this effort by dropping off new or gently-used coats to collection boxes in the lobby of Tucker Student Center on the GWU main campus.

coat collection

“The coat drive is a way for our students and local community to donate coats to be distributed to all those in need,” shared Micah Martin, Director of Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement.

Once the coats are collected, members of the GWU wrestling team will deliver them to Asheville on April 20, where Eblen Charities will be accepting donations at three locations. Wrestling team members will work at the collection site with students from Enka High School in Candler, N.C. Daniel Elliott, Head Coach of the GWU wrestling team, has a special connection with these students. His brother coaches wrestling at the high school.

“I first got involved with this charity because Bill Murdock, who founded Eblen Charities, is a huge wrestling fan,” Elliott shared. “He also started Headlock on Hunger, which works to fight starvation.”

coat drive set for April 3-19

In the past six years, Eblen Charities has collected and distributed more than 35,000 coats during the spring coat drive. The event is held in the spring, because it’s a time when people think of cleaning out their closets and retailers are discounting winter wear. The non-profit organization has over 70 programs, which have helped tens of thousands of families in western North Carolina with medical and emergency assistance.

For more information about Eblen Charities, visit [www.eblencharities.org](http://www.eblencharities.org). Also helping to sponsor the annual coat drive are Two Men and a Truck and Ashley Furniture HomeStore.

*Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.*