

For Release:  
Oct. 30, 2019

For more information:  
Clarissa Eyu  
[ceyu@usc.edu](mailto:ceyu@usc.edu)  
213-246-8189

### ***SHOES THAT FIT TO OPEN INAUGURAL CHAPTER IN MONTANA***

*Nonprofit that gives shoes to needy children to open its first chapter in the state of Montana*

HELENA, Mont. – Underprivileged children in Montana in need of new shoes for school have a reason to rejoice. Shoes That Fit, a nonprofit dedicated to tackling one of the most visible signs of poverty amongst schoolchildren, will be opening its first chapter in Helena, Montana this December.

Shoes That Fit is currently active in 49 states, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. and helped over 124,000 children in 2018. The inaugural Montana chapter of Shoes That Fit will open on Dec. 2 and begin operations by identifying and serving children experiencing poverty in the cities of Helena, Billings and Missoula.

“We are excited for the opening of our Montana chapter. The Treasure State is the only state that we have yet to operate in, and I am excited that we are finally going to be able to reach out to children in need there just in time for the holiday season,” said Amy Fass, CEO and executive director of Shoes That Fit. “Children are our biggest investment for the future, and we want to make sure that every child is able to reach their fullest potential, starting with a new pair of shoes.”

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau estimate that 14.4 percent of children in Montana were living in poverty in 2018. Additionally, 15 out of every 1000 children under age 18 in Montana were living in foster care in 2016, according to the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Children

in need often experience bullying in school because they wear clothes that are old and tattered, and wear shoes that are too old, smelly or inappropriate. Oftentimes, this may lead to poor school attendance, which in turn leads to poor academic performance. By giving these children a new pair of shoes, they are able to attend school with dignity and joy. Their school attendance improves, along with their behavior and self-esteem. Children who graduate with better educational outcomes are more likely to succeed in life and break out of the poverty cycle.

###

### **ABOUT SHOES THAT FIT**

Shoes That Fit is a nonprofit that aims to tackle one of the most visible signs of poverty in America by giving children in need new athletic shoes to attend school with dignity and joy, allowing them to be prepared to learn, play and thrive. Shoes That Fit helps more than 131,000 children annually at more than 2,500 schools across the United States and Puerto Rico. For more information on the organization, please visit <https://www.shoesthatfit.org>