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Media Advisory

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Wuesthoff Melbourne to Host
Wuesthoff's Warmth for the Homeless Blanket Drive

"Blanket Drive created by Wuesthoff employee after facing harsh weather conditions climbing Mount Fuji"

Brevard County, FL (September 16, 2009) When Jenny Garden, RN, Infectious Control coordinator at Wuesthoff Melbourne, and her husband recently traveled to Japan on vacation, she never imagined she would be inspired to change the lives of the homeless in Brevard community. While making the 12,388' climb to the top of Mount Fuji, Jenny and her husband were unprepared for the harsh conditions they faced. Climbing in the non-season, they experienced a brutally cold and wet climate with only enough clothing to protect them from serious harm. During their 12 hour trek, they spent the night on the mountain without a tent or sleeping bag.

"We literally sat as close together as possible and hid under a non-operational hut to protect ourselves from the bitter cold which literally took our breath away. I had never before seen snow much less needed to sleep in it," Jenny said.

After returning home she thought, "When the sun goes down, how do the homeless of our community feel each night when they must sleep outside without protection from the elements?" With that thought, the Wuesthoff Melbourne blanket drive was created.

The *Wuesthoff's Warmth for the Homeless Blanket Drive* will be held now through **Monday, October 5,** with all donations being taken to local homeless shelters on Wednesday, October 7. Donations of any kind are needed including new and used cotton, flannel, fleece or polyester blankets of all sizes including baby blankets (no comforters please), socks, t-shirts and backpacks. Donations are being dropped off at the main lobby of Wuesthoff Melbourne every day from **5:30 am through 3 pm**.

"I was so cold for one night, I can't imagine being cold for an entire season," added Jenny.

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