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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SHILOH BAPTIST OF D.C. TO DELIVER MORE THAN 400  
WINTER COATS TO D.C. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Washington, D.C.—Members of the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, will be delivering over 400 new coats for D.C. school children to four local schools that expressed a need for the winter wear.

The “United in Service Coat Drive”, spearheaded by church member Rita Bibbs-Booth, collected more than 400 coats during the past month. The drive originally set a goal of 158 coats, representing the number of years the church has been in existence. That number was exceeded in less than two weeks after the formal announcement of the drive. The coat drive started 22 years ago as the brainchild of the Torch Bearers Circle, one of the church’s membership organizations. This year the outreach effort became a part of the 158th Church Anniversary Committee to garner more support and to increase the number of D.C. student receiving the coats. As of November 21, the official cut-off of the campaign, church members and friends had donated 414 new coats for D.C. boys and girls.

“As a church, we have adopted the phrase, “Repairers of the Breach” as our church theme for the year. This theme taken from the words of the prophet Isaiah remind us to be United in service as we seek to address needs, mend broken places, and continuously mend the walls within our community,” Pastor Smith said recently in a sermon to challenge the church to continue in community service.

The four schools on the list to receive coats this year are Seaton Elementary in Northwest Washington, as well as Kimbal Elementary, Garfield Elementary, and Anne Beers Elementary in Southeast D.C. The schools will receive more than 100 coats each to warm young students this winter.

The schedule for delivery on Dec. 8 is as follows:

- 10 a.m. - Seaton on Rhode Island Avenue, NW
- 11:30 a.m. – Kimbal, 3375 Minnesota Avenue, SE
- 12:30 p.m. – Garfield, 2435 Alabama Avenue, SE
- 1:30 p.m. – Anne Beers, 3600 Alabama Avenue, SE

The Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington is one of the oldest black congregations in Washington, D.C. It was founded more than 158 years ago by 21 freed slaves out of Fredericksburg, Virginia.