

# THE CLOTHES LINE



Summer 2017

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## AND THE GOOD WORK CONTINUES...

The staff and volunteers see families facing some real challenges in their lives; divorce, unemployment, natural disasters, domestic abuse, and mental health issues can **turn a person's world upside down**.

In preparing for the unexpected, it's easy to overlook the necessity of having access to clean and comfortable clothing, but that's okay because we've planned for them. You name it, we've probably seen it many times over.

We have also seen these same individuals and families overcome their obstacles and say goodbye because they no longer need our services. They hug us and thank us for helping them get back on their feet. And it has been our pleasure to do so.

Free clothing for those in need.



We are constantly striving to change the look of poverty one outfit at a time. Our goal is not for our clients to look like everyone else, our goal is to make them look better! Better so they stand out for a job interview, a school conference, a promotion. Better because they stand taller, are proud of how they look and feel empowered to seek opportunities to better their lives. Poverty doesn't have to look a certain way and doesn't have to be a permanent situation. Because of the caring donors who've made the CCC the charity of their choice, we are making our community better for everyone. Our donors understand that while we do great work, we need financial contributions to keep the lights on and our small, hardworking staff supported. Since we don't charge a membership fee or ask our clients to pay for any of our services, we have to hustle to maintain our facility and care for all the special things inside it...including our volunteers. We couldn't survive without you! Join us and extend a helping hand. We need you. The community needs you.

*Diane MacDonald*  
Executive Director

# WHERE WILL WE BE?

**Appleton** – We'll be at Mile 5! Come visit our Vintage Pop-Up Shop at the Riverview Gardens building at 513 W. College Ave in downtown Appleton during this year's Mile of Music. We'll offer all types of vintage clothing for men, women and kids with coats, shirts, pants, tops and jewelry in the mix. Incorporating vintage clothing into your everyday wardrobe is a fun, creative way to breathe new life into your closet and support a worthy cause.



Don't miss your chance to pick up some unique pieces August 3-6 and support the Community Clothes Closet's unique mission at the same time. See you there!



**Menasha** – To help families prepare for school, we will once again be providing children in need the opportunity to pick out their "First Day of School" outfit during this year's Cool for School Event.

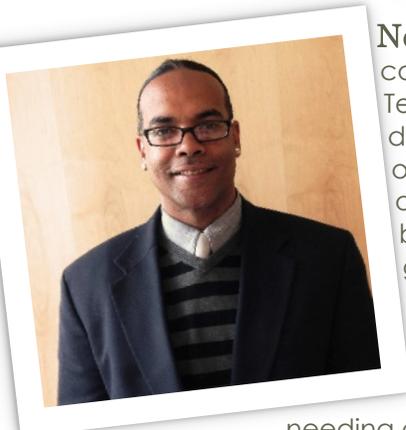
Last year, we served almost 1,000 local school-age children through our Cool for School program. And if recent inquiries are any gauge, we can expect to serve even more kids this year!

For many of the children who walk through our doors, this is the only opportunity they have to choose NEW clothing for themselves. Our goal is for the young students to feel empowered, confident, and ready to learn rather than worrying about their ill-fitting often threadbare clothing. All kids should experience the pure joy of walking through the school doors proud of how they look and excited for class!

New for 2017, we are adding more to their Cool for School experience! With our partners help, we'll provide Education Stations for the families before they shop for their new outfits. Children and parents will learn about cyber safety and stranger danger from the Menasha Police Department, healthy after school snacks from St. Joseph's Food Program, healthy oral hygiene practices from Tri County Dental, and emergency planning from Red Cross. For ways you can help a young child in need, keep reading...



## SUCCESS STORIES



**New Start Boutique** – Just having completed schooling at Moraine Park Technical College, Sharmain was determined to start working as a CNC operator. Sharmain came to us in need of an interview outfit. When he came back a week later, he told us that he got the job. Not only will he be a CNC operator, but he'll also be working as a supervisor!

In one week, Sharmain went from needing clothing for an interview to getting a full-time position with supervising duties. Was Sharmain's interview clothing and coaching on successful interview techniques the *only* thing that got him the job? Probably not. His will and drive did that, but we provided the necessary tools and set the stage for success!

Congratulations, Sharmain! We're happy to add you to our growing list of success stories.

**Special Occasions** – CCC client Maria was shopping for a special dress for her daughter, Amelia. This was not just any dress. Amelia needed a prom dress. Maria hoped to find something special in Amelia's favorite color—blue. The problem was that she wouldn't be able to come in to pick it out or even try it on which is one of the rules at the CCC.

When asked why she couldn't come in to try it on, Maria told us through very broken English that their family recently arrived from Cuba as political refugees. Currently, Amelia is a full time high school student and is tutored at Lawrence University several nights per week to learn English and our culture as a way to help the entire family adapt to their new lives here in Appleton. What a remarkable young lady!

Did we make an exception for them? You bet we did! We found Amelia the perfect dress, in blue, just in time for her prom. 



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## Volunteer Spotlight: Kristen Spindler

Even with a full-time job, Kristen has found time to volunteer at the CCC for three years. Volunteering was something Kristen valued while growing up. Both of her parents volunteered in community organizations—her dad at a food pantry and her mom at a dental clinic. Now, Kristen is volunteering because she loves helping people get back on their feet and she wholeheartedly believes in the CCC's mission.

Kristen volunteers at client checkout, and with her Spanish fluency, she loves to help Spanish-speaking shoppers. Kristen said she remembers a couple that found a dress at the CCC for their daughter's Quinceañera. At their next shopping visit, the couple brought pictures of their daughter's Quinceañera, held in Mexico, at a place Kristen knew well. It was a great opportunity for Kristen to understand, connect with, and make our shoppers feel welcome. Thank you, Kristen!



## Thank You, Volunteers!

A simple lunch could never be enough of a thank you to our dedicated volunteers, but as a small gesture of appreciation, our volunteers were treated to a lunch in recognition of the work they do for the CCC. Our volunteers took part in a game matching their baby pictures with current photos. It was a blast to see our volunteers and staff when they were younger. We have the cutest and hardest working volunteers around. Just take a look at Beth on the left. Wouldn't you agree?

### Join us at the CCC!

Would you like to give back to our community?

Do you have a few hours a week to give? We can use your help.

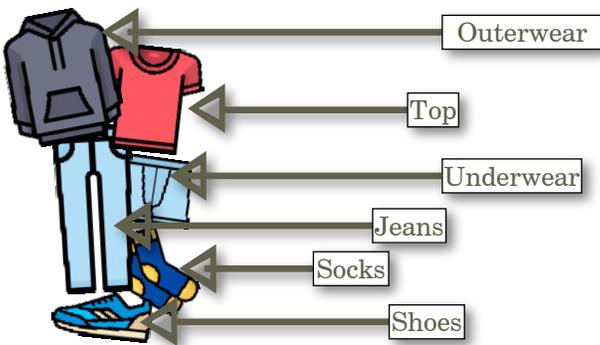
To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the CCC, contact us at 731-7834 or email our volunteer coordinator, Sandy, at [sandy@communityclothescloset.org](mailto:sandy@communityclothescloset.org).

## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### Don't have the time to volunteer?

Your dollars support scholars

You can sponsor a Cool for School kid. Your gift of \$75 outfits one boy or girl with brand new clothing—everything that a child needs for the first day of school from head to toe. Make a child smile. Make a child proud. Make a child feel empowered to start the new school year. Together, our community can change the face of poverty, one outfit at a time.



**DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?  
YOU CAN HELP THE CCC!**

When you shop at Amazon, you can earn money for the CCC. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), sign in with your account, choose the Community Clothes Closet as the charity of your choice, and shop. Every time you make a purchase, a portion will come back to the CCC, a local, unique non-profit. Every little bit counts!

### Collaboration Corner

Who we've partnered with recently





1465-B Opportunity Way  
Menasha, WI 54952

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 53  
MENASHA WI 54952

## Cleaning out your closet?

Here are some tips to help make it easier for our staff and volunteers to process your donations:

We accept all types of clothing—from casual to professional for all seasons.

We accept accessories and footwear.

We accept bedding, towels, small household items, books, and stuffed animals.

We prefer donations in bags or boxes; no hangers please.

We *DON'T* accept electronics, appliances, furniture, or toys.

### Most needed:

- Pillows
- Plus Size Clothing for men and women
- Children's clothing 2T and up
- Towels

### Do you have vintage clothing in your closet?

We can use it now! **See page 2** to find out how donating your vintage clothing can help the Community Clothes Closet!

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# DONATE

Clothing Donation Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Monday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Visit our Facebook page to learn more and donate online:  
 /communityclothescloset

Our location:  
1465B Opportunity Way  
Menasha, WI 54952

