

# THE CLOTHES LINE



Fall 2017

Tel: 920.731.7834 | E-mail: [info@communityclothescloset.org](mailto:info@communityclothescloset.org) | Web: [www.communityclothescloset.org](http://www.communityclothescloset.org) | [f /communityclothescloset](https://www.facebook.com/communityclothescloset)

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

We watch the news and images become burned into our minds...people sitting on rooftops to escape the raging flood waters in Texas. They have nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts that **someone** will come to their rescue. And while this disaster unfolds hundreds of miles away we are only left to say, "What would I do if it were me?"

So what can we do? We can be the "someone" that those people are waiting for. Natural disasters like the one in Texas is why the Community Clothes Closet exists, but the CCC is more than that. We are here to offer our neighbors shelter from the coming storm—whatever form that storm takes. Whether it's a hurricane, a fire, a blizzard, a job loss or a mental health crisis, we are here.



So as we prepare for the inevitable bite of the Wisconsin winter, feel proud that **you've** supported a local, solid organization that provides **warmth, kindness and confidence** to those in need in our community. **You've** helped us transform our clients into self sufficient, working individuals. **You've** supported the **disabled** and **elderly** who are on strict monthly budgets and **you've** allowed us to **keep our doors open** to clients like Jennifer, a single parent and sole caretaker of her two adult, autistic children. You support Jose, who is finally getting a job after making some poor life choices, and Irene who is graduating from technical school as a phlebotomy technician. **You've** helped hundreds of local school children start the new school year on the right foot. On behalf of all of the clients we serve, **thank you** for your kind, caring and giving spirit that makes the CCC shine in our community.

*Diane MacDonald*  
Executive Director

### Board of Directors

Kati Cunningham, **President**  
Jonathan Eiden  
Ray Gobin  
Ryan Houfek, **Treasurer**

Brandon Lepp  
Maggie Londo  
Nanci Micke

Jill Nielson  
Ann Vanevenhoven  
Mary Ann Wepfer



# SUMMER REWIND

## August—Our 1<sup>st</sup> Ever Vintage Pop Up

During the Mile of Music, we set up a temporary pop shop in downtown Appleton, selling vintage clothing and accessories. In partnership with Riverview Gardens and St. Vincent De Paul, we sold donated vintage items to raise funds for the CCC.



Thank you to all who volunteered, donated and shopped the Vintage Pop Up Shop during the Mile of Music. We sold oodles of vintage skirts, dresses, leisure suits, and accessories to guys and gals all over town. All told, we made just over \$6,000 – just enough to fix our leaky roof.

Follow us on Facebook for new Pop Up Shop dates and please keep donating your vintage clothing.

### FUN FACT!

#### Did you know....

- ❖ Your donations help over 1,700 individuals per month?
- ❖ Our volunteers volunteer over 755 hours per month?
- ❖ The CCC gave away over 602,000 items last year?

## Another 630 Students are ‘Cool For School’ Thanks to You!

The children were amped up and excited to shop for their new back-to-school outfits including new jeans, shirts, socks, underwear and shoes and their moms, dads, grandparents and guardians were extremely grateful for the help! Erica said, "With three children heading back to school in the fall, I don't know what I would have done without the program. The shoes are a godsend! Thank you!"

New this year we hosted "Education Stations" presented by our partners at the Menasha Police Department, St. Joseph's Food Program and Tri County Dental. Each child visited every station before shopping for their new outfit. They learned about healthy after-school snacks, oral hygiene, safety tips and cyber safety. Great lessons for both kids and parents!

Since its inception, Cool for School has **clothed thousands of children from the Valley**. Because of your support, we've empowered kids and helped them feel confident so they are ready to learn.

A sincere thank you to all who supported this event including Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis, Culver's of Darboy and Little Chute, Faith United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, The Alberta S Kimball-Mary L Anhaltzer Foundation, Nicolet National Bank, Pitney Bowes, The Real Estate Group Foundation Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, The Shopko Foundation, The TJX Foundation, Inc, Unison Credit Union and Winneconne Thrift & Gift Inc! It's not too late if you want to help. We accept Cool for School donations (both new kids' clothing and cash donations) all year long to meet our goal.



# SUCCESS STORY

**New Start Boutique** – Transformation in action. Meet Kristina. Her story is one we hear often. Kristina, a single mom, found herself in an unfulfilling career. Ready for a change, she decided she was going to get her realtor's license. She studied, worked hard and passed her exam! But now what? Kristina was anxious and unsure about the appropriateness of her existing wardrobe, and she didn't have the money to purchase business wear for her new job. She heard about the CCC's New Start Boutique from a friend, got a referral from one of our partner agencies and made an appointment. After a very joyous, often tearful, shopping experience, Kristina chose some fabulous clothes. "I can't believe how great this place is! Thank you so much!"



Because of your support, the New Start Boutique had exactly what she needed: beautiful, stylish work clothes, a laptop bag, comfortable undergarments and a healthy dose of self-esteem. It's just what she needs to succeed in her new career and in life. We don't plan on seeing Kristina forever - just long enough to see her thrive. Since New Start began, we've helped over 400 men and women get their business attire needs met!



A big *thank you* to United Way for supporting the New Start Boutique!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



### 911...What's your emergency?

Imagine a child being taken out of her home and put in a foster home with nothing but the clothes on her back. Imagine losing your home and everything in it from a fire or flood. Imagine the feeling of hopelessness these individuals must feel. The Community Clothes Closet provides hope by giving free clothing to people in these dire situations. This summer alone you provided forty-three people with clothing, socks, underwear, shoes and bedding. Please consider supporting foster children and disaster victims with a financial contribution so we can be ready when the need arises. Thank you for believing in our mission of helping those in need!

### Your donation doubled!



Our friends at the J.J. Keller Foundation are matching your donation dollar for dollar up to **\$5,000!** Your gift will be **doubled** when you donate now through the end of the year. Thank you to our friends at the J.J. Keller Foundation for their generosity.

**J. J. Keller**  
Foundation, Inc.



### Attention Shoppers!

Look at what our volunteers are up to now - Items made from repurposed clothing! Wool mittens, totes, team skirts and scarves available now during donation hours. Great gift ideas at a great price! All proceeds benefit the CCC!



**Volunteers Needed!** Would you like to give back to our community? Do you have a few hours a week to give? We could use your help! In addition to our registration, check in/out and behind the scenes volunteers, we are in need of **office volunteers** with computer skills. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the CCC, contact us at 920.731.7834 or email our volunteer coordinator, Sandy, at [sandy@communityclothescloset.org](mailto:sandy@communityclothescloset.org).



COMMUNITY  
CLOTHES  
CLOSET

Free clothing for those in need.

1465-B Opportunity Way

Menasha, WI 54952

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



**Inside: See more happy kids and the program that makes them smile**

**\*\*Donation Update\*\***

Beginning in **January**, to keep fulfilling our mission of providing free clothing to those in need, we will be **eliminating** donations of household items since other nonprofit organizations offer these items. This includes pots, pans, dishes, glasses and all other miscellaneous household items. We will continue **seeking and taking donations** of clothing for men, women and children as well as books, bedding, towels and pillows. *Thank you* for your continued support and for helping us stay focused on our mission of clothing those in need.

# DONATE

Clothing Donation Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Monday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm



[/Communityclothescloset.org](https://www.facebook.com/Communityclothescloset.org)

Check out what you've made possible:

- Pop Up Shop Fun Pg 2
- Back to School Pg 2
- Success Story Pg 3

## Collaboration Corner

Who we've partnered with recently



**RIVERVIEW  
GARDENS**  
72 acres with a mission