

THE CLOTHES LINE



Summer 2018

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Your Clothing Makes a Difference

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At the Community Clothes Closet we are passionate about helping kids. We love kids and want to see them flourish and grow into spirited young people, healthy teenagers and contributing adults. We want to see them succeed in school and in their social lives, and we know clothes play an extremely important role in achieving those goals. We work hard all year so we can provide what kids need to thrive like shoes, pants, underclothes, athletic wear, winter coats and boots.

Kids who don't fit in suffer. They can feel anxious, self-conscious, shy and withdrawn, because they lack the self-esteem needed to survive the challenge of being an adolescent. Children who look the part, will feel the part. They will do better in school and in life, because being accepted by their peers is of paramount importance to children and stylish clothing plays an important role.

Sophia and her mother came to us for help. Sophia is 12 and so excited to go to camp for the first time this year - just like her peers. "I get to go to camp this year and ride horses!" Sophia exclaimed, her big brown eyes were as big as saucers. Her mother shared with us that they just received a camp scholarship but she needs cowboy boots and summer clothing. Mom looked through last year's clothing and Sophia has outgrown everything she had from last year so now what? We looked high and low and found her appropriate shorts, t-shirts and a swimsuit but couldn't find any cowboy boots which was the one thing she needed to fit in. Sophia was so disappointed when she left. Sadly, this time we were unable to meet all of Sophia's needs, but with your help, maybe next time we can.

You can fix this! By supporting our Children's Shopping Floor and programs like Cool for School and PajamaRama we can ensure every child like Sophia has what they need. We are constantly in fundraising mode for the sake of the kids we serve and, together, we can break the cycle and put kids on the path to success.



CCC Kid Facts:

- 42% of our clients are children
- We provided clothing support to 2,304 kids last year
- 630 kids shopped our Cool for School event in 2017
- 162 kids shopped our PajamaRama event in 2018

Diane MacDonard
Executive Director

Cool for School Just Around the Corner

Each August, the CCC hosts its annual Cool for School event - a shopping experience for school aged children ages 4-18 to shop for their "First Day of School" outfit plus gym shoes. Almost half our clients are children and for many of them, this is the one opportunity they have to shop for NEW clothing.



numbers are up!

Last year's event helped over 600 children receive a new outfit, gym shoes, underwear and socks for FREE, and we're preparing for even more this year since our client

At the CCC we believe that every child should start the school year feeling confident and proud. As part of the shopping experience, we are partnering again with Menasha Police Department, St. Joseph's Food Program, American Red Cross and Tri County Dental so parents and children can learn about cyber safety, stranger danger, healthy after school snacks, emergency plans and healthy oral hygiene.

Please consider supporting this year's event through financial contributions or by donating new athletic pants, gym hoodies, clothing, tennis shoes, sports bras, underwear and/or socks.

We're looking forward to another successful year!

A special thank you to the J.J. Keller Foundation for supporting the Shoes for Kids in Need program.

J. J. Keller
Foundation, Inc.

Spring Cleaning?

We could really use your treasures.

Items We Accept:

- Men's, women's and children's clothing and footwear
- Purses, belts and jewelry
- Sheets, bedspreads and blankets
- New pillows
- Towels
- Books
- New or gently used stuffed animals
- Office Supplies
- Cash



Items We Do Not Accept:

- Furniture
- Electronics/appliances
- Used pillows
- Used indoor/outdoor toys
- Car seats
- Open cosmetics
- Household items: pots, pans, dishes, glassware, decor and all other miscellaneous items

Make a
donation
today!



- June 23rd, Brat Fry at Darboy Festival Foods
W3195 Van Roy Rd, Appleton
Join us for hamburgers and brats and support the CCC!
- August 11, Brat Fry at Darboy Festival Foods
- September 10th, 1st Annual Golf Fundraiser
Chippin' in fore a Cause
We will be hosting our first ever Golf Fundraiser! And will announce a CCC angel that has pledged a large matching gift! Stay tuned...Check out our website for sponsorship and registration information.
- September 29th, Octoberfest Craft Booth
Look for the CCC craft booth set up between Drew and Park St! We'll be selling items that our volunteers handcrafted from recycled clothing! Gloves, aprons, skirts and more!



A special thanks to our 95+ volunteers who keep this place running! We celebrated them with a luncheon, games and good fun. We couldn't do what we do without our awesome volunteers!

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”

~ Dr. Seuss



Help us make a difference - volunteer today!
Apply online at www.communityclothescloset.org
or call 920.731.7834 with any questions.

DID YOU KNOW...

- **86,080** items have been given to those in need since January?
- **6,825** pairs of shoes were given away last year?
- **4,241.25** volunteer hours were given between January and April?
- **22** New Start clients have received interview clothing since January?

Interview Ready



WI Job Statistics

- **65% of all jobs in Wisconsin pay less than \$20 an hour** and most pay less than \$15 an hour.
~The United Way ALICE Report
- ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households still face **21% gap in the income** needed to be able to survive and afford the basics in WI.
~The United Way ALICE Report
- WI only saw a **7% job growth vs the national average of 10%**.
~The State of Working Wisconsin 2016's report.



Jacob is a self-employed painter but to make ends meet he's been working odd jobs throughout the winter. He's been looking for a more stable opportunity with steady income and he had an interview scheduled at a local business in Menasha.

On the way to his interview he experienced car trouble and his interview clothing was splattered with car oil. In a panic Jacob stopped in to ask for a replacement outfit when we noticed his shirt, pants and even his shoes were stained with oil. Jacob was visibly shaken and our staff jumped at the challenge of finding him interview clothing in time for his interview. With the help of the CCC staff and the New Start Boutique, which is stocked with professional clothing from our many wonderful donors, we were able to fit him with a nice suit, shirt, socks, tie and shoes. Our time spent with Jacob also included coaching on interview etiquette, hand shaking and eye contact.

When Jacob left, he was so appreciative and felt confident and proud. "Thank you" Jacob said. "I don't know what I would have done if you weren't here. I would have looked foolish and would have been embarrassed!" What had been a hectic morning for him, was turning around – he was ready to tackle his interview! The best part? A few days later Jacob told us he got the job and was so grateful for our services.

Your support means so much to our clients while they navigate their path towards self-sufficiency. Thank you for helping to brighten the days of all the "Jacobs" we see.

One Step in a Journey to Independence

When Roseline first came to the CCC, she didn't want to look anyone in the eye. Being an independent person, she found it difficult to be in the position she was in and was reluctant to ask for help. But she said, "The volunteers at the CCC made me feel welcome." Because of your investment, Roseline's family has benefited from the programs provided at the CCC. Her family utilized the New Start Boutique for career clothing, Cool for School for new back to school clothing and PajamaRama for new PJs and books – all made possible through your support.

Over the last two years Roseline and her husband have been able to find jobs as CNAs and her husband, who has been attending school and working full-time, will graduate with a degree in Social Services this year! Their goal? To get him a better paying job and 'graduate' from the CCC. We couldn't be happier for their successes!

Roseline is very grateful and appreciative of the possibilities your financial and in-kind donations have provided her family over the last two years. With help from donors like you, she has been able to spend money on other basic necessities and work to improve their situation through education. Your support has given Roseline's family a chance at the American dream!

The CCC exists because of donors like you who want to help people going through difficult times – to help families on the road to independence. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of families like Roseline's throughout all of Northeast WI.



Call to Action!



Our clients come in all shapes and sizes. Through your donations, we were able to provide 'Michael', who's almost 6'9", a pair of pants that were just long enough! He was so grateful!

1465-B Opportunity Way
Menasha, WI 54952

Check out the exciting things happening at the CCC!

- Pg 1: We love kids!
- Pg 2: Upcoming Events
- Pg 3: Success stories

DONATE

Clothing Donation Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Monday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
(Or drop off at any Gunderson Cleaners)

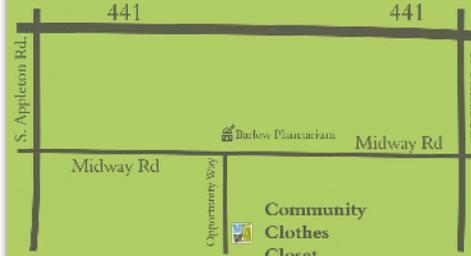
Visit our Facebook page to learn more and donate online:

 /communityclothescloset

Our location:
1465B Opportunity Way

Menasha, WI 54952

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It's finally grilling season and our volunteers have been hard at work! Check out our aprons, skirts and mittens - all made from recycled clothing - and for sale!

Located just inside our donation doors or visit us at our Octoberfest craft booth, Sept 29th!



Your in-kind donation supports an individual.
Your financial donation supports a community.