

COMMUNITY CLOTHESCLOSET



The Clothes Line

Fall 2021

PAJAMARAMA RETURNS!

On December 4, the 8th annual event will provide new, warm pajamas, blankets, pillows, books and stuffed animal reading buddies to children ages 2 – 12.

PajamaRama emphasizes the importance of reading and healthy bedtime habits like brushing your teeth and getting enough sleep.

We are looking for donations of new pajamas and new fleece-tied blankets that are at least 72" x 72". If you would like to help, please drop off your items by November 19. Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Gehling - Community Clothes Closet Co-President

Joe Roehl - Community Clothes Closet Co-President

All Court - Community Clothes Closet Treasurer

Nanci Micke

Chad Hackbarth

Dear Friends,

This summer has been a whirlwind of activity at CCC! I am excited to share details about our newest program (Traveling Closet – page 4) and how we are reducing our environmental footprint (CCC Goes Solar – page 2). It seems fitting that these innovations are happening just as we enter our fifth decade of service to the community.

We are recognizing 40 YEARS OF IMPACT with a giving campaign. Any donor – individual, family or business – that gives \$400 or more will (with permission) have their name listed as a 40 YEARS OF IMPACT donor on a large wall display near the Shopping Floor. I hope that display has a long list of donors that believe in our mission, allowing us to provide clothing to folks like Jerry.

On a recent Friday, I received a call from Pillars with a referral in desperate need. I met with Jerry for a personal shopping appointment that same day. Jerry was a new resident of the Fox Cities, and since relocating his life had become increasingly difficult. He was going through a very rough divorce and lost his job. His wife and children stayed in the apartment and Jerry was living out of his car. At the time of his visit, he had not had a clean set of clothing for over a week.

Several times he commented how grateful he was that area agencies were helping him get his life back on track. The team at Pillars was working to find Jerry a secure place to live. He was scheduled to start a new job on Monday with steel-toed boots and a new wardrobe in hard-to-find XXX-Large sizes from Community Clothes Closet. "Last Friday, I was admitted to the hospital as a threat to myself. I asked for help and help was there. One week later, things are definitely looking up.", Jerry shared.

Stories like this one illustrate the impact your support has on our friends and neighbors and we can't do this work without your help. Please consider a gift to CCC today!

Gratefully,

Lisa Jones - Executive Director

UNEXPECTED GENEROSITY

It seems that no matter where we are in the community, when people see our big Community Clothes Closet truck, they find a way to help. During Chippin' In Fore a Cause at Royal St. Patrick's, Executive Director Lisa Jones was approached by a kitchen staff member. She knew we would be on-site that day and brought four bags of new and gently used clothing to donate. *"I love that you give people a hand up and free clothing can help so many"*, Michaela said. Experiencing this kind of unexpected generosity is a definite perk of working at the Closet.



CCC GOES SOLAR

At Community Clothes Closet, we are increasingly focused on implementing updates to reduce our carbon footprint, especially if those updates can save costs and fund client programs. The services we provide to the community divert one million of pieces of clothing from landfills each year. Last winter we updated our 20,000 square-foot facility's lighting to high efficiency LED to greatly reduce energy consumption.



Our next innovation will be to install a state-of-the-art solar panel power system in October. This system will produce more than 30,000 kilowatt hours of energy and prevent 23 tons of greenhouse gases from entering our atmosphere each year. Cost savings from our conversion to solar will be re-invested into the core mission of free clothing to those in need.

Our generous funders for this project include Evergreen Credit Union, the Doug and Carla Salmon Foundation, Fox Cities Stadium Fund within the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, WPPI and Solar for Good. Thank you to all who helped make this project happen.



100 GOLFERS CHIPPED IN!

Despite heavy rain the day before, it was a wonderful day on the course for an even better cause. Golfers swung their clubs and took their mulligans to support CCC and we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$17,000 thanks to all of the generous participants and these amazing event sponsors:

- Adashun Jones Real Estate
- ADCi
- Altrusa Club of Appleton
- Baker Tilly
- Dynamic Insights
- Encapsys
- Great Northern Corporation
- ID Marketing
- MJI Building Services
- Morgan Stanley
- Nicolet Bank
- Palisades Heating & Cooling
- Smile Creations
- Stevenson Appraisal
- Vande Hey Company
- von Briesen & Roper
- Winch Financial
- WIPFLI

Chippin' in Fore a Cause 2022
date to be announced soon!



ANDREA JOINS CCC

Hello Everyone! My name is Andrea Peterson and I am the new Director of Operations at Community Clothes Closet. While serving as an AmeriCorps member here for just shy of a year, I fell in love with the mission and am so blessed that I get to come aboard in a staff role.

Prior to joining the organization, I worked in management and health & safety. This experience will serve me well as I help CCC navigate the many new and exciting programs that are on the horizon, while also strengthening current client programs. When I'm off the clock I can be found drinking multiple cups of coffee, riding my horses or hiking the outdoors with my hound dog and husband.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Donation Desk Attendants needed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm. Tasks include assisting with donor receipts and helping unload clothing donations from vehicles. Volunteers should be comfortable standing frequently and be able to lift up to 40 pounds. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, please call Andrea at (920) 731-7834.



LOBSTERS AND BRAS

CCC supporter Diane co-hosts an annual summer dinner for her friends that features lobster tails and sweet corn. A tradition has evolved over the years that after dinner, guests watch the sunset and share something they are grateful for. This year, she decided to add a charity element and asked her 25+ friends to bring a new or gently used bra to the party. "I know how desperately Community Clothes Closet needs bras and underwear and I thought this would be a meaningful way to help," she shared. "It gave us something else to be thankful for – well-fitting and supportive bras and underwear are something we don't have to think twice about. But for some women, that can be a struggle."



Diane donated 17 new bras, 21 gently used bras and several new pairs of underwear. We applaud this act of kindness and hope others will be inspired to add giving back to their fall and holiday gatherings!

COOL FOR SCHOOL GETS AN A+++

Cool for School at Community Clothes Closet was held August 20 and 21 and over 3,600 articles of clothing and shoes were provided to 356 young scholars. "I can't wait for the first day of school!" was heard often by volunteers who helped kids shop for new pants, tops, athletic shoes, socks and underwear.

These smiles illustrate the confidence kids feel now that they have new clothing for the school year. All this is possible because of caring supporters like you. A heartfelt thank you as well to the event corporate sponsor Menasha Utilities.





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OUR MISSION: Provide free clothing to all people in need.

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INTRODUCING THE TRAVELING CLOSET

We are thrilled to announce a new, innovative pilot program that has been in the planning stages for over a year is becoming a reality in October. The Traveling Closet will serve students of all ages referred by school social workers who need new functional and warm clothing, outerwear, boots and gym shoes during the school year. The program is a partnership with the Oshkosh Area School District and the Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club. Our big truck will be loaded for monthly distribution events and will provide approximately 7,600 articles of clothing, 400 pairs of shoes and 900 bedding items.

The vision for this program is to establish needs-based mobile outreach, bringing free clothes to people who can't visit our Menasha facility due to transportation issues or other challenges. The long-term goal is to have the Traveling Closet regularly stop at schools, shelters, pantries and other locations in underserved areas of Northeastern Wisconsin.

"As school social workers we are always looking for positive ways to connect with our students and families. We are grateful for partnerships to distribute basic needs like clothing. Kids who visit the Traveling Closet will gain self-confidence, leading to better decision making and engagement! Thank you to all who help in that process." - Lynn Ryerson, MSW, School Social Worker, Oshkosh North High School

