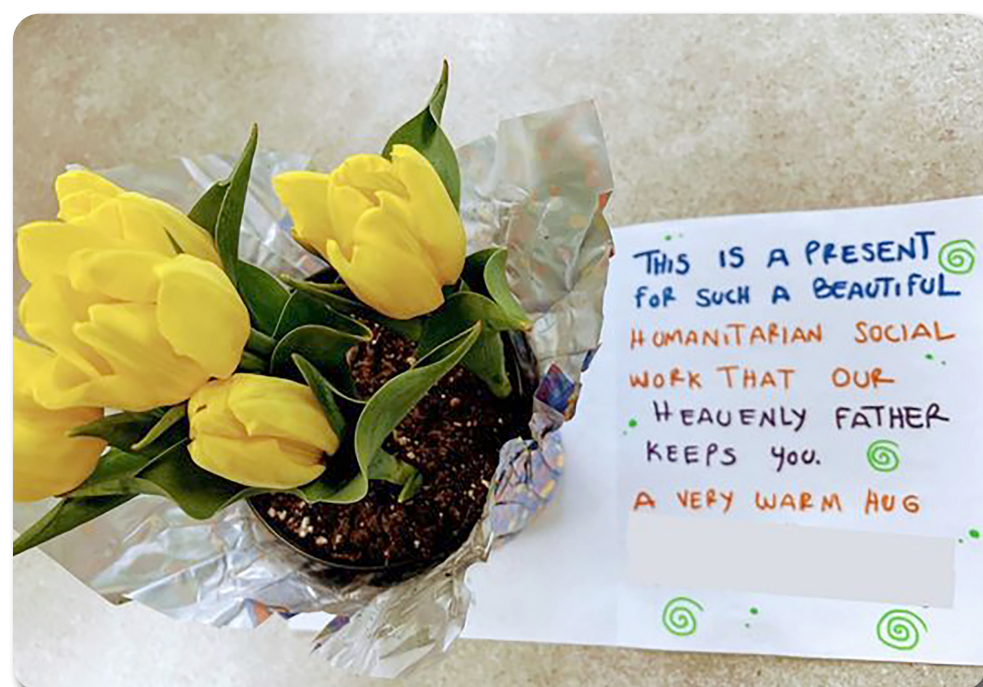




The Clothes Line

Spring 2022

A KIND GESTURE



Sometimes, when we least expect it, something like this comes in to reinforce how important our services are to clients. Thank you to the wonderful family who brightened our day with these tulips. We're so fortunate to serve this community and grateful for reminders of Community Clothes Closet's impact.

HELP WITH COOL FOR SCHOOL

Our biggest client event of the year – Cool for School – is happening on August 19 and 20 and we could use some support. Every year, we host over 350 deserving students who receive a new set of clothes, athletic shoes, socks and underwear. Smiling faces are everywhere during Cool for School and their new outfits make kids excited for another school year.

If you can, please consider donating NEW athletic shoes, girls tops and leggings in sizes 4T to 16, and boys tops and athletic pants in sizes 4T to 16. Donations must be received by August 5. Your donations will allow kids to be ready for school with new clothing – just like their peers!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Gehling - Co-President
Joe Roehl - Co-President
Ali Court - Treasurer
Nanci Micke
Chad Hackbarth
Ann Vanevenhoven
Janelle Van De Hei
Amy Gunderson
Amy Schanke

Hello from a very busy Community Clothes Closet,

As the temperatures (slowly) begin to warm up, our clients are ready to shed their heavy winter clothing and are visiting in numbers we haven't seen since the start of the pandemic. In March and early April, we have provided nearly 40,000 items to 1,920 individuals – much above our numbers in the past two years.

With this increased activity, your investment is even more important. We are on pace to have a record year and are so grateful for every donation and volunteer hour – we wouldn't be here without you! In this newsletter, we highlight the many different ways businesses and individuals share their time and talent to keep the mission going. From a new coat of paint by volunteers to funding a major building need – this community pulls together to keep our mission strong.

I am particularly proud of the collaborative programs featured in this edition. New partnerships with Harbor House, Oshkosh Area School District, and Winnebago and Outagamie Counties make services to those in need more impactful and easier to access. This kind of success makes us all more committed to finding new ways to work better together!

Enjoy the sunshine today,

Lisa Jones

Lisa Jones - Executive Director

Chippin' In Fore A Cause Registraion Deadline is July 1st!

MEET OUR BOARD CO-PRESIDENT JOE ROEHL

"When people think of basic needs the impact of clothing on an individual's confidence is often overlooked. I see first-hand in schools how this affects a student's confidence and I want to do what I can to provide clothing to all those in need."

I grew up in Fond du Lac and earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at UW-Madison and a Master of Science in Engineering Management at Milwaukee School of Engineering. I am the President at ADCi, or American Digital Cartography, Inc and we specialize in customizing digital map data. I have served as a board member for USA Youth Sports and am currently the president of the Little Chute Area School District Board of Education, as well as Community Clothes Closet. This year I will have donated blood 100 times at the Community Blood Center (CBC). Between CCC and the CBC, I must like non-profits with the letter "C".



This spring, the Closet reached out to 28 area high schools to provide girls in need with a new prom dress. In our second year of hosting Operation Cinderella, 77 young women received their prom dress free of charge.

BUSINESS PARTNERS GIVE BIG



A new coat of paint can brighten up any room – or our Shopping Floor! A team of volunteers from **Nicolet National Bank** rolled up their sleeves and helped make our space look amazing. Chad Hackbarth is a member of our Board of Directors and is pictured here on the right. Thank you, Chad, for bringing your co-workers in for a job well done.

THANK YOU FESTIVAL FOODS



Festival Foods recently donated 40 gently used shopping carts for client use on the Shopping Floor. It is wonderful to have carts that are all the same model and nest together correctly. Clients are very happy to have functional carts that work smoothly and there are several days each month that all of the carts are in use at the same time.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



There is nothing like a cozy, colorful tie blanket to keep toes warm on a spring day. These blankets were graciously made for our clients by the **United Way Fox Cities LINC** (Lead. Impact. Network. Change.) group. LINC engages individuals age 30 and under in meaningful opportunities to better our community. Thank you for your dynamic leadership in our community, LINC!

TRAVELING CLOSET UPDATE



The Traveling Closet debuted at the beginning of the school year and is a partnership with the Oshkosh Area School District and the Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club. Each month the Closet brings a truck to the Club filled with new clothing and hygiene items. Students can 'shop' for tops, bottoms, socks, bras, undies and other high need priority items. In the last few months we have seen a significant increase in the number of families using the Traveling Closet.

At the April event, we welcomed six wonderful volunteers from Oshkosh Corporation who helped provide 1,452 items to 121 students, including 63 refugee children from families recently relocated to Oshkosh.

After the May event, we will take a break for the summer and are planning to expand this impactful program to other underserved areas in our community this Fall. More information soon!



An Oshkosh Corporation volunteer and representative from Oshkosh schools prepare clothing for distribution

COLLABORATION GETS THE JOB DONE

HARBOR HOUSE PARTNERSHIP

Harbor House

Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs in Appleton exists to break the stigma of abuse, offer refuge to survivors and create pathways to empowerment. The shelter determined that their residents, mostly female, were not being adequately served by their limited in-house clothing closet and that the space was needed for other client services. After donating their remaining inventory to Community Clothes Closet, all residents are now invited to shop at our facility.

Executive Director Amber Schroeder shared the following about this new collaboration: "Harbor House is excited to grow our agency partnership in an effort to provide comprehensive, 360-degree care to victims of domestic violence. By connecting our clients to Community Clothes Closet, we know they will have access to meet one of their most basic needs—clothing—to help provide both in-the-moment care and long-lasting stability."

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

Community Clothes Closet is reaching out to grandparents who have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren, either temporarily or on a permanent basis. This growing demographic is being contacted through partnerships with both Outagamie and Winnebago County Department of Health and Human Services. Having free clothing and bedding available to these multi-generational families helps them stretch limited budgets – and gets children the clothing they need throughout the year.



IT IS TIME FOR A NEW ROOF

After 26 years, the original roof on our building is failing – we have leaks and water damage that need to be addressed. The roof also covers St. Joseph's Food Program, our neighbor, so we are tackling the project together. The cost will exceed \$250,000 and the teams are contacting local philanthropic businesses and individuals for support. It is our hope to secure funding this summer and have work start in the Fall. If you know someone that might be interested in helping to offset this cost, we would love to hear from you.