

COMMUNITY CLOTHESCLOSET

1465-B Opportunity Way | Menasha, WI 54952

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

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The Clothes Line

Winter 2022

SAVE THE DATE



Save the date for the Golf Outing
Thursday, July 21 at Royal St. Patrick's

Join your friends for a day of
golf, food and fun to benefit
Community Clothes Closet.
Registration will open in
April – watch our Facebook
page!



CHIPPIN' IN FORE A CAUSE | JULY 21 | ROYAL ST. PATRICKS - WRIGHTSTOWN

WE ARE
HIRING

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CLEANING COORDINATOR

Every closet needs a good cleaning now and then and we are no different! We have an opening for a 12-hour-per-week position. The candidate would be responsible for completing a daily schedule of cleaning, sanitizing, mopping and vacuuming our facility. If you'd like to join the team, you can find more information on our website under the "About Us" tab.

PAJAMARAMA HELPS 200 KIDS!

The eighth annual PajamaRama was held last month and served over 200 children, providing warm PJs, a blanket, a book, reading buddy stuffed animal, toothbrushes and a pillow. Volunteers saw many happy faces, and this young lady commented how every single thing she wore to the event was a Community Clothes Closet item. "We are so thankful for everything you do for our family," shared Mom. Thank you to all who made this event possible and a special shout-out to our presenting sponsor, VFW Auxiliary 2778 of Appleton.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Gehling - Co-President
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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022! But before we sweep last year out the door, we are taking over this newsletter to illustrate just how overwhelmingly grateful we are for YOU! If you are reading this newsletter, you have supported the Closet by volunteering, donating, serving as a board member and sharing our story with friends and you are a rockstar. Thank you for sharing our belief that clothing can open the door to a better future.



This community, and I speak both geographically and our CCC family, is truly one of a kind. When we see a problem, we band together to find a solution. We don't shy away or ignore the difficult. Many of us understand what it means to go without and we strive to make certain that help is available. I can't express how thankful I am to you all for this giving spirit. Everything you do makes the work we do possible.

So, take a few minutes and read about your impact and remember that the photos, smiles and quotes in this newsletter are a small representation of how your support of Community Clothes Closet is affecting people in need. This New Year, we are toasting each of you who help bring dignity, hope and joy to all we serve!

With Gratitude,

Lisa Jones

Lisa Jones - Executive Director

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CLIENTS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

We recently asked our clients what coming to the Closet means to them. This is a small sampling of their comments.

“As a single female with low annual income, having access to free clothes in a must to survive.”
– Heidi

“The volunteers are wonderful. They all treat clients with respect and friendliness. A real asset to our community.”
– Carol

“It has helped a ton, especially during the Covid stuff.”
– Crystal

“When I needed clothing, I knew I could count on you!”
– Pat

“The staff is always so nice and accepting. I feel welcomed and it’s always a positive experience when I come here.”
– Bethany

“My kids love that they can come and shop for themselves and it takes a big burden off our shoulders.”
– Anonymous

“Everyone here is so helpful and makes you feel like you deserve to wear something nice, no matter what your situation is.”
– Ellen

As you can see, your investment directly impacts the most vulnerable in our community. We would love to have you visit and see the mission in action. Give us a call to schedule a quick walk-through, you will be glad you did.

PARTNERS GIVE BIG

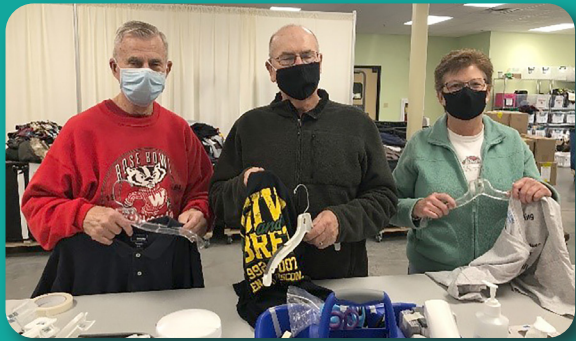
We are amazed every week by the number and generous spirit of our mission partners. Last year, 112 businesses, service groups and other charities saw the importance of our mission and wanted to help with financial support, in-kind donations or by volunteering – sometimes all three! When we consider what we have to be grateful for this year, our partners top the list. Recent examples include:



The team from Meijer Grand Chute stopped by with \$500 in high need undergarments for kids and adults.



Cellcom donated \$1,000 to help offset the cost of our recent conversion to solar energy.



Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis has been a CCC partner for approximately 20 years and recently volunteers helped prep items for the Shopping Floor. Rosemarie has also volunteered at several Cool for School events and shared “It’s such a dignified shopping environment. Families are getting clothes they need that they may not have been able to afford. The excitement in the kids’ faces warms your heart.”

VOLUNTEERS MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

How could we put together a newsletter about our gratitude without highlighting our amazing volunteers? Every week, about 100 dedicated helpers process donations, work on the Shopping Floor, sort, clean and generally do the work that keeps the mission going.

Rita and Jean, both 90 years young, have been volunteers at Community Clothes Closet for a combined 39 years and have a smile every time they walk in the door. They graduated together from Stockbridge High School in 1949 and, decades later, found that volunteering was a great way to keep active. Between them, they have helped with about all of the volunteer tasks here, but feel they’ve found their niche with blankets and sheets. Once a week, the pair process all of the bedding that is donated – sorting, measuring, marking and prepping for distribution.

“No one really liked this job because it can be heavy and hard work. But every time I fold a warm blanket, I know it will keep someone warm and safe.” Jean commented. “I know the families are grateful and it makes me feel good. This is meaningful work.” When asked what keeps them volunteering, they both mentioned how nice their fellow helpers are. We are so thankful for each and every one of our superstar volunteers!



TRAVELING CLOSET UPDATE



After three monthly distribution events for this new program, Traveling Closet is really making an impact. We are learning how best to serve students of Oshkosh Area School district with each event and will continue distributions throughout the school year. Each month, on average, we help 70 students and distribute about 1,000 items including clothing, bedding and hygiene kits.

A mom with three children who has attended each event wrote to us saying “Thank you! My husband and I are currently living in a one bedroom with our three boys and saving to get a bigger place. This is just such a big blessing.”

Danielle from Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club, our event host, commented “This fits so perfectly into our mission to improve the lives of children and families. We have so many kids/families within the Club and within the community that absolutely need this!”

In addition, our partnership with Oshkosh schools means we can help families who have immediate needs. Ms. Thiel, a school social worker, had this to say, “When I contacted Community Clothes Closet for two families that were in crisis, within 24 hours they provided clothes, winter gear, blankets, sheets, sleeping bags, and pillows for families that desperately needed it. I am so impressed by their understanding of urgency and their willingness and passion. The donations are an immense help to the families and they represent the families’ first spark of hope that things will get better.”



This boy arrived at the Traveling Closet in the only shoes he owned – a pair of silver sandals. He and his family recently relocated to Wisconsin and they were unprepared for the weather.