



## Feb 2022 Annual Report

### 2022 Year in Review

We are filled with so much gratitude for what we have been able to do in 2022. We provided 5-7 outfits plus outerwear for 350\* kiddos, reached a major milestone of serving our 1,000th child in care, held five Shop & Eat Events, had all our partner clothing pick-up sites reopen, published our first four e-newsletter editions of *The Clothes Line*, worked with area student groups on service projects, received clothing donations - large and small - whose thoughtfulness took our breath away, received grants from organizations that understand our mission and want to support these families in our community, continued to build our close relationships with Dane County Human Services, and at the end of year broke records in clothing requests. It has been an awesome and inspiring year!

For most of us, 2022 was a year of rebuilding, but it continued to be a year of hardship and stress for many. The need for community resources and support services continues to grow and we have seen that reflected in the increase in clothing requests at Luke's Closet. **We are especially thankful for St. Luke's Lutheran Church, our volunteers and our donors who make it possible for Luke's Closet to fulfill this mission throughout the year.**

### 2022 Highlights:

- Luke's Closet provided clothes to 350\* children. An increase of 42% from the number of children served in 2021. At the end of 2022, clothing had been provided to over 1,200\* children since our start in June 2018.
- The 100+ Women Who Care Madison chapter awarded Luke's Closet with a one-time \$16,000 grant to provide shoes to our kiddos.
- New volunteers continue to find us and share their passion, time and talent. Luke's Closet is an all-volunteer ministry and is thankful for everyone who chooses to share their time with us. Our record-busting clothing requests tapped our inventory and the call for clothing donations was heard. The generous donations leave us continually amazed. We do our best to thank our donors but some are sent anonymously. To all our donors, please know how thankful we are and how impactful your donations are!
- Community grants totalling over \$20,000, allow us to fill the gaps with needed clothing, enhance offerings at Shop & Eat events, and help provide new shoes.
- A dedicated communications volunteer joined our committee who publishes our quarterly e-newsletter *The Clothes Line* and manages our social media accounts. We continue our efforts to connect and expand communication with Dane County care families, volunteers, donors and

community partners through our social media outlets on Facebook and Instagram. We currently have 521 followers on Facebook and 84 on Instagram. To receive *The Clothes Line*, subscribe here: <https://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukesclosetfriends>

- We received generous donations of pillowcases, fleece blankets and hand knitted hats and gloves from many individuals

## **2023 Goals**

- **Provide Shoes to Kids in Care.** Getting our kiddos shoes has long been a request of our families and a goal of Luke's Closet. With the generous grants we've received in 2022, Luke's Closet is working closely with Dane County Human Services foster and kinship social workers for the most impactful distribution.
- **Recruit Fulfillment Volunteers.** Fulfillment volunteers pack clothes from our Closet as clothing requests are received. It's a detailed and impactful opportunity. To learn more, visit the volunteer section of [www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet](http://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet) for details!
- **Develop a Team of Delivery Drivers.** Luke's Closet is growing and is looking for volunteers willing to drive the packaged clothing during office hours to our various pick-up sites throughout Dane County. Volunteers will have the flexibility to sign up for the days that work best for them. We never know where clothes will need to go until the requests are received but a typical delivery is 1 hour. To join the Luke's Closet delivery team, please email [kimnickeldesign@gmail.com](mailto:kimnickeldesign@gmail.com).
- **Encourage Clothing Drives.** As the demand for clothing increases, we are reaching out to community organizations to host clothing drives. If you're interested, please email [kimnickeldesign@gmail.com](mailto:kimnickeldesign@gmail.com) for support in doing so. We can provide publicity materials and donation boxes.
- **Welcome New Volunteers.** We have many ways to volunteer and **we always welcome new volunteers** – visit [www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet](http://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet) for details!

## **Select 2022 Luke's Closet Testimonials:**

"Luke's Closet has an amazing volunteer staff. They help meet all the needs from preparing meals, books and clothing for families and kids in need. Thank you for all the donations. Blessings. Peace Be Multiplied." – *Luke's Closet Shop & Eat Attendee*:

### *From a Clothing Delivery Recipient:*

"[These] clothes are such a blessing! We feel so so loved. Thank you for what you guys are doing. Thank you for including some of the next sizes, she is growing fast :) you are a treasure. Praising God for you guys." – Grandma

"This program is a blessing to those in need. The volunteers are very kind. They make you feel comfortable and not ashamed of having to ask for help. I thank you for being here and providing care and services to so many. Many blessings to you all." – *Luke's Closet Shop & Eat Attendee*:

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*Luke's Closet Mission: To serve and support foster, kinship (typically a Grandma-led family) and adoptive families residing in Dane county by providing free, high-quality clothing. Clothing is made available quickly and is easily accessible.*

\*This number includes multiple requests from children.