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The Clothes Line | Vol. 3 2024

Why Luke's Closet?

“He came to me with a diaper on. I have a minor of my own and my income is \$700 a month. We really need help.” - Kinship grandma

“I received an urgent call from a social worker. She had 3 children at the hospital who were entering emergency foster care. The parents were in a medical crisis and could no longer care for them. The foster parents were interested in picking up clothing on the way home. Clean clothes, especially underwear, was a priority as it had been a long time since the children had been bathed. We packed a week’s worth of clean clothing along with new socks and underwear. They could go home, bathe the children, put them in clean clothing, and focus on loving them.” - Luke’s Closet volunteer

>> [Sharing comments about two Dane County families that Luke’s Closet supported recently. We’re honored to help children in crisis and help families](#)

stay together, and grateful to our donors and volunteers for making our support possible.

Volunteers Needed: Ironman WI on Saturday, Sept. 7

Help Luke's Closet earn a grant from the Ironman Foundation and get behind the scenes of this incredible race! Serve food to the athletes after their race in a tent protected from whatever weather comes our way that day. Youth are welcome to join parents. Register to volunteer by looking for "Athlete Food Tent - Luke's Closet:" [Ironman Volunteer Sign-Up.](#)

157 Children Attended our August Shoe, Shop & Eat

We hosted 157 kiddos plus their guardians at our back-to-school event on August 23, filling St. Luke's with over 300 people. It was incredible energy. With 5-7 outfits per child, plus socks and underwear (for a week's worth of clean clothing) and outerwear, each child is left with



approximately 20 items, which means over 3,000 items total!

Thanks to multiple grants, children were able to shop online for the shoes of their choice. Luke's Closet paid and sent the shoes directly to their homes. The children were just as excited for the new shoes as they were to receive a package in the mail.

Months of planning go into each event. We're incredibly thankful for:

- 50+ volunteers who helped at the event.
- Donors who provided food for breakfast and lunch to help families recharge and refuel.

- Bloom Bake Shop's donations.
- St. Luke's Lutheran Church for housing Luke's Closet and welcoming the families with open arms.

[Check out the WKOW news story.](#)

Comments families shared:

- "It's the greatest place ever. Organized, clean and absolutely amazing group of people."
- "The children and I love to come to this event – it is so helpful and gives the children a sense of importance and lifts their spirits. The volunteers are so amazing. Thank you so much all you do for the families."

Comments volunteers shared:

- "The new volunteers were so positive about how well everything is organized and how they had no idea of the extent and depth of this program."
- "I thought this was an amazing event and didn't hear any complaints from anyone."

Planning is under way for our November 9, 2024 event.



Key Needs ->

Underwear (toddler - adult sizes)

Waterproof mittens (all sizes)

Boys and mens athletic pants (sizes youth 6 - Men's XL)

Shop our [Amazon wish list](#) or buy from your favorite store.

Special Donor Thank You

GRANTS:

- Madison Investments \$1,000
- Rotary Club \$500

Luke's Closet is always on the lookout for new grants to apply for! If you are part of a grant-giving organization, please consider contacting Kirsten Pedersen, Luke's Closet co-chair, at kirstenpedersen_30@msn.com.

CLOTHING DRIVES:

We're incredibly thankful for community partners that recently hosted clothing drives for Luke's Closet: Middleton High School Band, 56ers Soccer Club, and the Oregon Eagle Drive neighborhood. If you're interested in hosting a clothing drive, please email drives4lukescloset@gmail.com for more information.

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT LUKE'S
CLOSET**

- [Donating](#)
- [Volunteering](#)
- [2023 Annual Report](#)

Mission Statement: To serve and support foster, kinship and adoptive families residing in Dane County by providing free, high-quality clothing. Clothing is made available quickly and is easily accessible.

Welcome Statement: Luke's Closet welcomes all children (0-18 years old) and their caregivers in foster, kinship and adoptive care in Dane County, Wisconsin, regardless of race, cultural heritage, national origin, marital status, religion, political beliefs, abilities/disabilities, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Our thanks to [St. Luke's Lutheran Church](#) for housing and supporting Luke's Closet.



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