



The Clothes Line | Vol. 3 2023

“AMAZING” SHOE, SHOP & EAT EVENT

Our August Back-To-School Shoe, Shop & Eat event provided free clothing and new shoes to more than 125 kiddos which is 50 more than our previous record! Most importantly, here's what our families had to say:

- “I'm so grateful for this. It has saved us.”
- “Everyone was so kind, helpful. Thank you so much. This really HELPS. Thank you & thank you.”
- “Luke's Closet is amazing. The children are always so excited to come and shop. ALL the volunteers are so amazing. Thank you all for this amazing gift for the children.”



The funding for new shoes came from a grant awarded to Luke's Closet by 100+ Women Who Care Madison. We

measured the kiddos feet, helped them shop online, purchased the shoes and sent them directly to their home. Shoes are expensive and a large financial burden for our families. So many happy kiddos (and grateful grown-ups) with new kicks for school!

In addition to shopping for clothing, kiddos chose books donated by Madison Reading Project along with Dane County Human Services who also provided lunch. Bloom Bake Shop donated many delectable breakfast treats as well. Many thanks to our community partners who make Shop & Eat even better.

During the event, we ran out of pants for young boys. We are incredibly grateful for our monthly, annual and special occasion individual donors who made it possible for us to make a fast trip to the store to restock, so kiddos could get what they needed.

>>> Next Shop & Eat: November 11, 2023 / 10am - 2pm

Sign up to Volunteer at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FABAF23ABF8CF8-44529616-lukes#/>

Luke's Closet Leadership Changes

Diane Reeber Lin, Luke's Closet inaugural chair, has passed the baton of leadership to Kirsten Pedersen and Kim Nickel. All three women have been instrumental in the founding, development and growth of Luke's Closet for the past five years.

"It has been an incredible honor to lead and serve in this way. I'm so proud of the impact Luke's Closet has made for area foster, kinship and adoptive families. And we couldn't do it without our amazingly dedicated volunteers," expressed Diane.

"Kirsten's financial and strategic planning strengths will complement Kim's operations focus so I'm confident Luke's Closet continues in good hands."



See article below "A Pause to Reflect" on the Luke's Closet lifespan during Diane's tenure.

Pictured (l-r): Kim Nickel, Co-Chair; Robin Zimmerman, Secretary/Treasurer; Cathi Jones, Fulfillment Coordinator; Diane Reeber Lin, Immediate Past Chair; Susan Sweitzer, Outreach Coordinator; and Kirsten Pedersen, Co-Chair.

Current Key Needs:

- Waterproof Mittens (all sizes)
- Snow pants (all sizes)
- Boys Athletic Pants (youth 5-8)

We always welcome new or nearly new clothing, size 12 months - teenage-styled adult 3XL.

**Now Accepting
FALL & WINTER
CLOTHING**

We welcome new or nearly new clothes for toddler thru teenage-styled adult sizes.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MIDDLETON
LUKE'S CLOSET
OUR "GOOD NEIGHBOR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITY" MINISTRY

Contactless drop-off:
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 4pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7337 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562

Clothing Drives

To help keep our closet stocked, Luke's Closet loves to partner with youth organizations willing to host clothing drives. We supply the boxes, flyers and social media graphics. You place the boxes and share the information with your team/group/school. If you're part of a youth organization interested in giving back to the community in this way, please contact us at drives4lukescloset@gmail.com.



SPECIAL DONOR THANK YOUS

PAJAMAS: We were blessed with a donation of over 350 new pajamas last year. Those PJs have gotten us through a record year of clothing requests and shoppers. We couldn't be more grateful for the generosity of Greg and Sandy O'Dell!

CULVER'S: In June, Luke's Closet volunteers became Culver's food runners for a night. Thanks to our volunteers and the many friends and families eating at Culver's in Middleton that night, we received \$621 from the Culver's Share Night program which helps us fill the gaps in our inventory.

SOCKS & UNDERS: Cornerstone Family Chiropractic Team, Fitchburg, delivered hundreds of socks and underwear from their "Undie 500" drive in September arriving at a perfect time as our supply was depleted from our recent Back-to-School Shoe, Shop & Eat event.

GRANTS:

- \$1,000 – Middleton Lions Club
- \$1,000 - Middleton Endowment and Middleton Kiwanis for teen-styled XL-XXL sized clothing
- \$500 – Rotary Club of Madison – Breakfast Foundation, Inc. for winter outerwear

If you are part of a grant-giving organization, please consider contacting Kirsten Pedersen, Luke's Closet co-chair at kirstenpedersen_30@msn.com.



A PAUSE TO REFLECT

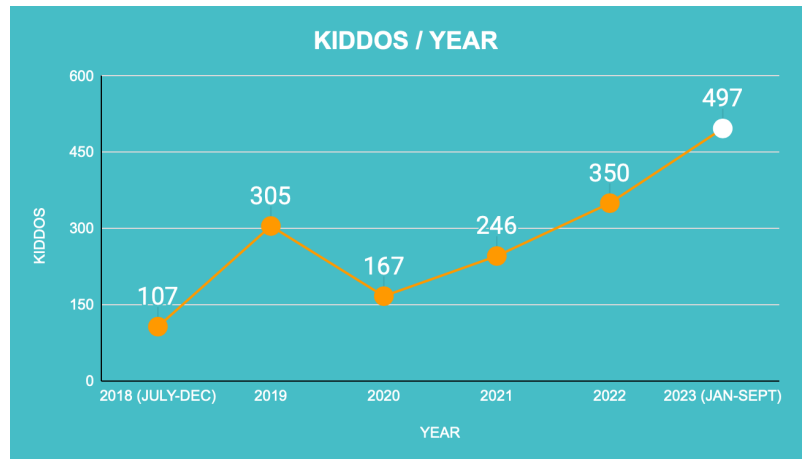
Typically, the Luke's Closet leadership team is looking forward but every once in a while we take a breath and look back at the last five years since we started with just a simple idea about providing clothing to kiddos in foster, kinship and adoptive care in Dane County. And when we do, it's humbling.

Luke's Closet has given clothing to over 1,600 kiddos and we are on track to serve 600 kiddos in 2023 alone, which is more than the first three years combined!

We continue to be amazed and grateful for St. Luke's Lutheran Church who houses us and supports us in so many ways along with our donors and volunteers who make Luke's Closet function.

We continue to be humbled by the dedication our amazing foster/kinship/adoptive care families have to caring for kiddos on the front lines of trauma.

LEARN MORE about donating or volunteering at <https://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet>



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.

7337 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562
608-234-0146 | lukesclosetdaneco@gmail.com

<https://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet>
<https://www.facebook.com/LukesClosetDaneCo>
<https://www.instagram.com/lukesclosetdaneco/>

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

