



2023 Annual Report

Luke's Closet Continues to Grow

In 2023, Luke's Closet nearly doubled the number of Dane County foster and kinship care kiddos served* with a jump from 350 in 2022 to 688 in 2023. None of this is possible without the ongoing support of St. Luke's and our incredibly dedicated volunteers and donors. Having St. Luke's house and provide many of our needed support services, such as accounting, is critical and we want the St. Luke's community to know how important their support is to the Luke's Closet mission.

2023 Goals & Highlights

- ☑ **Honor our mission.** We continue to provide 5-7 outfits per kiddo through our Shop & Eat events, personal shopping appointments, and by delivery.
- ☑ **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. Thanks to grants and fundraising, we were able to meet this need. Luke's Closet worked closely with Dane County Human Services foster and kinship social workers for the most impactful distribution. We continue to work closely with social workers and seek out grants in order to keep providing shoes.
- ☑ **Recruit Fulfillment Volunteers.** We added a couple new fulfillment volunteers to our team this past year but would welcome more 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 for details!
- ☑ **Develop a Team of Delivery Drivers.** We added a team of delivery drivers to help get clothing to kiddos as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who signed up to do this! If you're interested in joining the Luke's Closet delivery team, please email lukesclosetcommunications@gmail.com.
- ☑ **Encourage Clothing Drives.** As the demand for clothing increases, we began seeking partners for hosting clothing drives and developed a program to streamline drives. If you have a community organization who would be interested in hosting a drive, please email drives4lukescloset@gmail.com for more information. We can provide publicity materials and donation boxes.
- ☑ **Expand Shop & Eat Events.** Our Shop & Eat events are growing exponentially and are becoming a welcome respite for often overwhelmed guardians. In addition to selecting clothes and enjoying a meal, St. Luke's is enabling the foster/kinship community to network and form connections in what can be isolating family situations. Through a newly formed partnership with UW Physical Therapy students, we're also able to offer games and activities for the kiddos. The St. Luke's building is a familiar and welcoming space for our families.

With much gratitude:

- **Thank you volunteers!** 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. If you're interested in learning more about Luke's Closet and the many volunteer opportunities we have, visit <https://www.stlukes-elca.org/lukes-closet> or email Kim Nickel at lukesclosetcommunications@gmail.com
- **Thank you clothing donors!** Our record-busting clothing requests tapped out our inventory and the call for clothing donations was heard. Plus, we received generous donations of pillowcases, fleece blankets and hand knitted hats and gloves from many individuals. 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!
- **Thank you financial donors!** We are blessed with regular financial donors. Thanks to these funds, we are able to fill the emergency gaps in our inventory. For example, we had a shocking 110 kiddos at our 2023 Back- to-School Shop & Eat event which was 3x the number at the 2022 event. Because of our financial donors, we were able to purchase items to ensure the kiddos had the clothing they needed for school. Additionally, we are thankful for the financial grants we received that allowed us to purchase things like shoes, sweatshirts and larger sized clothing.

Select 2023 Luke's Closet Testimonials:

- "[This is] a caring place. People are awesome here. They spend their time doing God's work. They are our angels in the time of needs. Thank you St. Luke's."
- "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."
- "Wonderful helping those in need. I'm grateful you blessed me so much and I'm overjoyed. Thank you so much. I'm new to town [to care for my grandchildren.]"

– 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.

**Numbers reflect single and repeat users as kiddos may receive clothing seasonally and/or as they grow.*