

THE CLOTHING CENTER COMMUNICATOR

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2010

Knox County Schools/PTA Clothing Center

Special Points of Interest:

- 2008-09 School Year Statistics: 2,413 students served and 63,811 articles of new and gently used clothing distributed to over 1,200 families.
- The purpose of the Knox County Schools/PTA Clothing Center is to provide clothing assistance for students enrolled in our Knox County Schools who have a financial need and have been declared eligible by their school..
- Clothing Center became a United Way Partner Agency in 1986.
- The Board of Directors is a committee of fifteen volunteers!



*“Kids Come In All Sizes”
Founded 1936*

SPRING IS COMING! CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET FOR US...

Spring will be arriving none too soon and we are all looking forward to it. But with the arrival of Spring comes that dreaded Spring cleaning. We want to remind you that as you are cleaning out your closets and trading out your wardrobe, keep the Clothing Center in mind.

We have many students with clothing needs and we depend on clothing drives and donations to help provide a supply of gently used clothing along with the new items to each child that walks into the doors of the Center. The Center tries to stock sizes 4 toddler to an adult 68" waist - kids do come in all sizes. We always have a special need for gently used boys shirts (t-shirt and polo style) in sizes 12 through 16.

Each year, the Knox County Council PTA encourages every PTA and

PTSA in Knox County to conduct two clothing drives (typically fall and spring) and the Spring Clothing Drive has been set for April 5-9, 2010.

From August 2009 through the end of January, the Clothing Center has served 1,731 students — this is up slightly from this time last year. Many of these students will return for another allotment of clothing now that we are into the second half of the school year. Looks like we are in for another record breaking year.

You don't have to be a PTA/PTSA school to conduct a clothing drive to help meet the needs of our Knox County students. Get with friends, neighbors, colleagues, members of your organization, or business partners/employees and conduct a Spring Clothing Drive for gently

used clothing in all sizes. You can also conduct a drive when it is most convenient for your organization, business, or group.

The Knox County Council also encourages every local PTA and PTSA school to designate funds annually. This helps to supplement the cost of purchasing new clothing that is given to every child that visits the center. You don't have to be a PTA/PTSA school to make a monetary contribution either. We need the support of many.

The Clothing Center is just one community service project of the Knox County Council PTA. To learn more about the Council visit their website: www.kccpta.org. To learn more about the Clothing Center visit our website at: www.clothingcenter.org

The Clothing Center Communicator is the official publication of the Knox County Schools/PTA Clothing Center.

The Clothing Center Communicator is published quarterly by the Board of Directors. Advertisements placed in this communicator do not constitute an endorsement by the Clothing Center.

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You don't have to be a PTA/PTSA school to conduct a clothing drive for Knox County students.



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LARGE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR OUR SERVICE...

According to statistics found on Great Schools website (www.greatschools.net), last school year 38% of Knox County's students were on the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program and the Clothing Center served 12% of those students. Due to the current economy, this number is expected to rise this school year.

The Clothing Center has been serving over 2,000 students yearly for the last several years. This school year the Center has seen an increase in clients already and we are only half way through the school year.

Each child can visit the Center two times during the school year - one the first half of the year and another the second half. By allowing

each child a return visit, we are able to provide clothing appropriate for the changing seasons.

Putting all this into prospective, we know that we have the potential of over 20,000 students requesting our service yearly and we will need continual support to meet those needs.



The Federal Free and Reduced Meal Program is a base for establishing a need for our service.



The shelves are looking a little bare in some areas.

WE HAVE SOME SPECIFIC NEEDS AT THIS TIME...

Of course we are always in need of gently used donated clothing but sometimes we have shortages on certain items. Maybe you can help???

Here are some specifics request at this time:

- **Solid Color, Collared Shirts in all sizes** in

the following colors: red, white, black, columbia blue, royal blue, pink, maroon and grey.

- **Boys shirts and pants in sizes 7 and up** are always in short supply throughout the school year. We serve a large percentage within this

range.

- **Girls shirts in sizes 10 and 12 and girls shirts and pants in sizes 14 and 16.**

As was mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter, now is the time to start Spring Cleaning so why not start with your closets?

HELP! WE ARE LOOKING FOR A JEANS SUPPLIER...



The Clothing Center must provide pants for over 2,000 children yearly. We had been blessed with a jeans supplier for many, many years who understood the project and was very generous and supplied our needs at cost. His company has been sold to a New York conglomerate who does not have the same concern for our needs. Their jeans are substandard compared to the previous vendor. There are many issues when placing an order with them and many pairs must be returned with every order.

We are searching for another jeans supplier who will give us the quality and care that we had become accustomed to with MacDavids for over twenty years. If you have any information that could be of value to us, please contact the director at ccdirector@clothingcenter.org. Thank you so much for all your support.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS — JULY 1, 2009-DECEMBER 31, 2009

- ♥ Thanks to Commissioner Mike Hammond for your \$500 donation from your discretionary funds.
- ♥ LIST OF MONETARY DONORS (July through December) — Farragut Middle School PTSA, Knox County Council PTA, Ball Camp Primary PTA, Karns High PTSA, and Christenberry Elementary PTA
- ♥ Thanks to an anonymous donor of \$100. While purchasing jeans recently for the Center, the staff was approached by a man who inquired about the large purchase they had just made and they told him about the Clothing Center. He then gave them a donation (a folded up bill) and said he wanted to help. After loading the purchase the staff noticed the folded bill was \$100. Thank again to this anonymous donor.

CLIENT COMMENTS ABOUT OUR SERVICE...

- “We can buy food now.”
- “We don't worry about clothes for our children.”
- “We could pay the electric bill.”
- “We had a Christmas this year because we wrapped up these clothes as their Christmas gifts.”
- “So much less stress worrying about money for clothes.”
- “We could buy more food.”
- “Kids are so happy.”
- “They look like everyone else at school and love their clothes. The staff is so helpful and caring.”

Reminder...

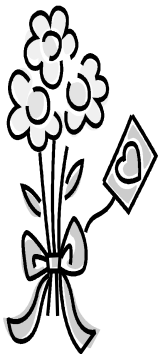
Spring Clothing Drive April 5-9, 2010

Clothing needed in all sizes!

MORE THANKS...

- ♥ Special thanks to Kristi Spurgeon for putting together the beautiful Mary Kay basket provided for the Knox County Council PTA December Luncheon and Gift Basket Auction, and
- ♥ Special thanks to Pat Davenport for getting the 2 night stay in the Hampton Inn-Sevierville donated to place in the basket.

The basket was auctioned off at Knox County Council PTA's Annual December Snowflakes and Packages Event. The Clothing Center receives a portion of the proceeds from the gift basket auction. The annual event brought in \$1,696 for the Center. Approximately 126 attended the event on December 3 and there were 75 baskets/items auctioned off by Jackson Real Estate (who donated their services). **Thanks to all who participated.**



*Harold and Sylvia
Woods appreciate the
dedication of the PTA
Clothing Center in
serving our students!*



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**THE KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS/PTA
CLOTHING CENTER**

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www.clothingcenter.org

ELECTRONIC READING: If you would like to view this newsletter electronically in pdf format on our website instead of receiving a printed issue, please email the director and your name will be removed from the mailing list: ccdirector@clothingcenter.org

LOCATION

The Clothing Center is located at 1000 N. Central inside the Knox Central Building at the corner of Central Avenue and Baxter Avenue.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Clothing Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and operates on the school calendar (August 5 - May 29). Clients are seen by appointment only.

DONATION DELIVERIES

Please contact the center at 594-3791 prior to delivery of clothing donations. Clients are served on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and client days can get very busy. We don't want your donation to go unrecognized. Thursday and Friday may be needed for shopping purposes. Please call ahead and verify that someone will be there. The Center closes at 4:00 p.m.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT...

We do not accept used shoes, underwear and socks and we do not have space for your tired and worn-out clothing. However, no useable donation is turned away.



"Our kids come in all sizes and we need your help to clothe them"

ADVERTISING SPACE

Business Card Size advertising space is available in our newsletter. To download an "Advertising Contract" visit our website (clothingcenter.org).

The Communicator's mailing list currently consist of over 500 local education partners, businesses, churches, and neighborhood associations. It is also posted on our website!

**YOUR DONATION IS
TAX DEDUCTIBLE!
ASK THE STAFF
FOR A TAX
RECEIPT.**