



PRESS RELEASE
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**Catie's Closet Opens its 100th Closet
in Springfield Middle School**

DRACUT, MA - Catie's Closet is proud to announce its latest milestone with the opening of its 100th closet inside Springfield Middle School. The closet will provide students in grades six through eight with free, immediate access to clothing and the basic necessities they need.

With the addition of this closet, Catie's Closet now serves the needs of 3,000 children in the Springfield and Holyoke community. Catie's Closet has closets located in seven schools, including Lincoln Elementary School, Milton Bradley Elementary School, Rebecca M. Johnson Elementary School, and Springfield Middle School in Springfield, and H.B. Lawrence Elementary School, Veritas Prep, and William R. Peck Middle School in Holyoke.

"The opening of our 100th closet is such a momentous occasion for Catie's Closet, and we are so thrilled to celebrate this milestone in the Springfield community," said Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "Across Western Massachusetts, we have seen substantial growth in the needs of local students. The closet in Springfield Middle School is an important step in our expansion to continue meeting the critical needs of children across Massachusetts."

Accompanied by a trusted faculty member, students in Springfield Middle School can now visit their Catie's Closet any time during school hours to shop for basic necessities they may lack, such as clothing, jackets, socks, undergarments, hygiene items, school supplies, hats, gloves, and more.

Students who visit Catie's Closet experience a variety of challenging circumstances, including poverty, sudden financial hardship, and refugee, immigration, and foster care transitions.

"Catie's Closet has been a very valuable resource we have been providing for families for many years now, and we hope to keep increasing their presence in schools throughout the District," said Springfield Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Lydia Martinez. "The closets are welcoming and affirming places for our families to 'shop' for what they need and feel good about the experience. As much as we appreciate the tangible resources Catie's Closet provides, I am extremely grateful for the cooperative, kind and generous manner in which they work with our schools and families. The entire staff embodies the mission of Catie's Closet and we consider them a part of the Springfield Public Schools community."

Catie's Closet relies on donations from the community to serve the immediate needs of students.

Those interested in donating new or gently used clothing or new, full-sized toiletries should contact Dan Bisson at dan@catiescloset.org. [Click here to learn more and view a list of accepted items.](#)

The [Springfield Amazon Wish List](#) is also a convenient way for supporters to donate brand-new items to fill their community's closets.

Monetary donations allow Catie's Closet to expand into more schools in Springfield and Holyoke. To make a monetary donation, click [here](#).

Visit catiescloset.org to learn more about Catie's Closet.



Photo cutline: Catie's Closet recently opened a closet inside Springfield Middle School, marking the opening of its 100th closet. Students in grades six through eight who attend Springfield Middle School can now visit the closet to shop for clothing, toiletries, and other basic necessities they may lack, free of charge. During their visit, students can choose items that not only fill their needs, but fit their sizes and individual styles.

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Established in 2010, Catie's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that improves school attendance and the self-esteem of students living in poverty by offering in-school closets filled with free clothing, toiletries and other necessities. Serving 70,000 students, Catie's Closet is offered in 100 schools across ten school districts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with distribution centers in Dracut and Boston, Massachusetts. More information is available at catiescloset.org.