

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WITH PHOTO
November 10, 2022

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Catie's Closet opens 42nd location in Boston Public Schools

DRACUT, MA - Catie's Closet is proud to announce the opening of four new closets in Boston at the <u>Joseph Lee K-8 School</u>, <u>Sarah Greenwood K-8 School</u>, <u>Mary E Curley School</u> and <u>Boston Latin Academy</u>., which will provide an additional 3,500 low-income children with free access to clothing and other basic necessities right inside their school.

With the addition of these four schools, Catie's Closet serves more than 21,000 Boston Public Schools students and operates 42 closets across the City of Boston. Established in 2010, Catie's Closet transforms unused spaces inside schools into stores students can shop in for items they need free of charge. This immediate and discreet access gives children the freedom to choose items they wear and use, restoring their confidence and helping them obtain a quality education.

"We proudly continue our expansion across Boston with our latest closet openings," said Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "Every day we see just how dire the needs of our students are and how much they need our support to maintain dignity and focus on their education. This new closet addition is one more significant opportunity to give local children what they need to succeed, and another step to achieving our vision: that every child has access to the essentials that foster physical, emotional, and mental well-being."

Catie's Closet's busiest time of year is the back-to-school season when the organization focuses heavily on stocking all closets for the demands of the new school year, while simultaneously opening new closets to reach more students in need.

These new closets come at a time when requests for Catie's Closet's services are at an all-time high due to inflation, continued youth mental health issues, obesity, and other student-centered issues.

Catie's Closet is on track to operate 50 closets by the end of the year. Currently being prepped are closets at <u>James F. Condon K-8 School</u>, <u>Lee Pilot Academy School</u>, <u>West Zone ELC</u>, and <u>Ellison Parks EEC</u>, which will serve 1,104 more students.

The nonprofit organization's goal is to operate 100 Boston closets by 2025.

In total across Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Catie's Closet serves more than 75,000 preK-12 students in 115 schools.

To view a full list of Catie's Closets and to learn more about the organization, visit catiescloset.org.



Photo cutline: Boston Latin Academy is the latest Catie's Closet Boston location, granting 1,685 students with free access to clothing, toiletries and other basic necessities. Catie's Closet now has 42 closets in Boston Public Schools.

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Established in 2010, Catie's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that disrupts the cycle of poverty by providing students experiencing poverty, homelessness, and other crises with free access to clothing, toiletries and basic necessities. Serving 75,000 students, Catie's Closet is offered in 115 schools across 10 school districts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with distribution centers in Dracut and Boston,

Massachusetts. The organization also supports children in transition via social service partnerships. More information is available at catiescloset.org.