



PRESS RELEASE
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Demand for Catie's Closet's Services Triples Over Last Year

DRACUT, MA - As many individuals and families relish in a new sense of post-pandemic normalcy, tens of thousands of families in poverty now try to mitigate the impacts of inflation and rising costs of basic consumer goods.

Catie's Closet understands firsthand how the current economic state is affecting our most vulnerable community members. The organization serves children and teens in grades K-12, providing them with free in-school access to clothing and other basic necessities. It also operates an emergency order system which serves children who are displaced and involved with local social service agencies. Currently, Catie's Closet meets the needs of 80,000 children in 120 schools and more than 5,400 children throughout the community.

Demand for its services is three times higher than it was last year. Catie's Closet says this is due to the inflation crisis, as well as the youth emotional, mental, and physical health crisis wreaking havoc on our younger generations.

"This is certainly an unprecedented time at Catie's Closet when the needs of our students are dire and requests need to be filled immediately," said Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "Each day we receive hundreds of requests from schools and from our partner agencies. The families we serve already have a difficult time meeting their children's basic needs. With the cost of essential items at an all-time high, they are finding it nearly impossible. We are grateful to remain a consistent resource children can rely on for relief," she added.

Catie's Closet is expecting to open 40 new closet locations this year as well as a brand new Distribution Center in Springfield, MA. Due to its exponential growth and the increased needs of students, Catie's Closet requires immense support from community members and local businesses to continue its work across Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The organization will hold its 12th Annual Gala, A Night to Open Doors, on March 18, 2023 at 6pm at Andover Country Club. Catie's Closet is turning to community members and local businesses to purchase tickets, secure a sponsorship, donate an auction item or make a donation to help raise \$250,000 to further support children in need.

More information on how to support Catie's Closet and the 2023 gala, as well as other involvement opportunities, is available at catiescloset.org/event/gala2023.



Photo cutline: Catie's Closet will host its 12th Annual in-person gala, "A Night to Open Doors", to meet the growing needs of local children and increased demand for its services. The gala will be held on March 18, 2023 at 6pm at Andover Country Club. Purchase tickets or learn more at

catiescloset.org/event/gala2023.

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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 80,000 students, Catie's Closet is offered in 120 schools across 11 school districts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with distribution centers in Dracut and Boston, Massachusetts. The organization also supports children who are displaced via social service partnerships. More information is available at catiescloset.org.