



PRESS RELEASE
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**Catie's Closet Raises \$260,000 at
A Night to Open Doors Annual Gala**

DRACUT, MA - Catie's Closet is proud to announce its annual Gala, "A Night to Open Doors", was a huge success, raising \$260,000 to support its mission of providing local children living in poverty with free access to clothing, toiletries and other necessities.

On March 18, 2023, more than 350 attendees filled the ballroom of Andover Country Club. This year's gala was the first in-person gala since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are still in awe of the generosity our community members showed in support of this year's Gala," said Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "It was absolutely amazing to see the crowd of new and familiar faces, and experience the enthusiasm of those who truly want to make a difference in the lives of students in need. The pandemic halted our annual gala for three years, and this was most certainly a night to remember," she added.

The annual Gala is Catie's Closet's biggest and most important fundraiser of the year. This year's event made a mark in Catie's Closet's 13-year history as the most successful Gala.

Attendees bid on live and silent auctions, took their chances on the legendary raffle baskets, and raised their bidder numbers to fund the needs of students. Cockrell, along with Founder & Board Chairman, Anne-Marie Sousa, and special guest speaker, Wendy Roberge-Crocker, Principal at J.G. Pyne Arts Magnet School in Lowell, addressed the crowd with emotional, informational and inspirational speeches, while comedian Tony V emceed the event and conducted the live auction.

All proceeds from the event help Catie's Closet continue and expand its work. Currently, Catie's Closet serves 80,000 students in 120 schools in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, as well as an additional 5,000 children who are served by Catie's Closet's local social services agency partners.

Community members and businesses interested in getting involved are encouraged to visit catiescloset.org to learn more about joining the mission.



Photo cutline: Catie's Closet CEO and Co-Founder, Mickey Cockrell, addresses a 350-person crowd at the organization's Annual Gala, "A Night to Open Doors". The event raised \$260,000 to support the Catie's Closet mission of providing local children in need with clothing, toiletries and basic necessities.

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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, Boston, and Springfield, Massachusetts. The organization also supports children who are displaced via social service partnerships. More information is available at catiescloset.org.