



PRESS RELEASE
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**Catie's Closet Opens New Distribution Center,
Gives Greater Springfield Students Access to Basic Necessities**

EAST LONGMEADOW, MA - Catie's Closet is thrilled to announce its new Distribution Center is officially open in East Longmeadow and ready to accept donations of clothing and other basic necessities to serve Greater Springfield students in need.

Catie's Closet currently serves more than 5,000 students across 10 schools in Springfield and Holyoke via its In-School Closet Program. The program gives students in need the opportunity to shop for clothing, toiletries, undergarments, school supplies, and more, free of charge. Catie's Closet is seeking the community's help to fill closets for the upcoming school year.

Catie's Closet is well-known in the Merrimack Valley and Boston communities with 115 closets serving 80,000 students. The organization understood the deep needs in the Greater Springfield community with 85% of students documented as low-income and made it a priority to open a Distribution Center to help meet the basic needs of the area's youth. The new Distribution Center is located at 16 Deer Park Drive, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

"This Distribution Center opening is an incredible milestone for Catie's Closet, and this new addition to our organization will allow us to successfully serve students and expand our work in the Greater Springfield community," says Mickey Cockrell, CEO & Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "Greater Springfield students face many barriers preventing them from obtaining a quality education. We are determined to break down those barriers and help students achieve their greatest potential."

Established in 2010, Catie's Closet also operates Distribution Centers in Boston and Dracut, Massachusetts.

The official launch of this new Distribution Center comes just in time for Catie's Closet's region-wide back-to-school initiative. This is an impactful way for Greater Springfield community members to get involved with the organization.

During the months of August and September, Catie's Closet will host its eighth annual "Fill the Bus" initiative. This is the organization's largest call for new and gently used children and teen clothing donations to ensure all students in need have access to items that are critical to a successful start to the school year. Catie's Closet's goal is to collect 15,000 items for Greater Springfield students.

There are several ways individuals, businesses, and groups can help local students this school year and beyond. Community members in the Greater Springfield area are encouraged to:

- [Donate new or gently used children's and/or teen clothing.](#)
- [Shop from the Springfield Amazon Wish List](#) to donate brand new clothing right to the Springfield Distribution Center.
- [Host a drive](#) with your company or your family, friends and neighbors.

"As we continue to grow and reach more students in need, our Fill the Bus initiative becomes increasingly more important every year," says Cockrell. "Our community's support during this time of year allows us to adequately serve our students, granting them access to everything they need as they start a new school year," she adds.

For more information about Catie's Closet and Fill the Bus, visit catiescloset.org. Questions? Click [Contact Us](#) on the website to reach out directly.



Photo cutline: Catie's Closet recently opened its third Distribution Center at 16 Deer Park Drive East Longmeadow, MA 01028. This building will serve as the hub of Catie's Closet's Greater Springfield operation. The organization currently offers 10 closets in Springfield and Holyoke schools where students can shop for clothing and other basic necessities free of charge during school hours.



Photo cutline: Catie's Closet's eighth annual Fill the Bus initiative kicked off on August 1, 2023 and will run through September 30, 2023. This is the organization's largest call for donations of youth and teen clothing, toiletries, and school supplies to get students in need back to school with all the critical items that are necessary for their success. Learn more at catiescloset.org/events.

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Established in 2010, Catie's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that gives students in need life-changing access to clothing and basic necessities. With its In-School Closet Program and SOS Urgent Response Program, the organization serves more than 85,000 students. Catie's Closet is offered in more than 120 schools across 11 school districts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with distribution centers in Dracut, Boston, and Springfield, Massachusetts. More information is available at catiescloset.org.