



**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WITH PHOTO  
August 23, 2023

Contact: Amanda Harvey  
amanda@catiescloset.org

**Catie's Closet Opens New  
Merrimack Valley Distribution Center**

DRACUT, MA - Catie's Closet is thrilled to announce the opening of its brand-new Corporate Headquarters and Merrimack Valley Distribution Center, located at 28 Loon Hill Road in Dracut. This expansive building will help the organization better serve students living in poverty in the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire areas as well as other communities across the region.

The organization's Headquarters and Merrimack Valley Distribution Center was previously located at 19 School Street in Dracut.

This expansion was made possible by the following individuals and organizations:

- Senator Ed Kennedy, who championed and secured an amendment on behalf of Catie's Closet in the state budget for \$375,000.
- Anonymous Donor who generously gave \$150,000.
- City of Lowell's first round of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Grants, totaling \$30,000.
- Town of Dracut which advocated and supported Catie's Closet throughout the development of the project.

"This new Distribution Center is a huge and exciting milestone for Catie's Closet," says Anne-Marie Sousa, Founder & Board Chair. "Our organization has expanded rapidly over the last several years with no signs of slowing down."

The new Loon Hill Road location provides 20,000 square feet and two floors of space for Catie's Closet to house clothing, toiletries, and other basic necessities. These items are distributed to students in grades prek-12 who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, foster care and refugee transitions, as well as other crises via the Catie's Closet In-School Closet Program and SOS Urgent Response Program.

Catie's Closet currently serves a total of 90,000 students with its two programs and operates 125 closets in 11 school districts across Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Catie's Closet supports students in the following Merrimack Valley school districts: Lowell, Lawrence, Dracut, Tyngsboro, and Billerica, Massachusetts, and Hudson, Manchester, and Nashua, New Hampshire.

The organization also operates Distribution Centers in Boston and Western MA.

"This new location is critical to successfully meeting the growing needs of our students, especially in the wake of increasing financial demands our local families are experiencing," says Mickey Cockrell, CEO & Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "This expansion will allow us to support more school districts north of Boston and help us say "yes" to more children in need," she adds.

"Every day, I have the honor of making children's dreams come true, and I look forward to reaching more children who are in urgent need of support," says Denise Trombly, Co-Founder and Director of Operations. Trombly is also a former Dracut school teacher.

Those interested in supporting Catie's Closet can make a [monetary donation](#), [donate new or gently used clothing and other basic necessities](#), and [host a drive](#). To inquire about getting a Catie's Closet in your school or school district, you can contact [mickey@catiescloset.org](mailto:mickey@catiescloset.org).



**Photo cutline:** (From left) Mickey Cockrell, Catie's Closet's Co-Founder & CEO, Anne-Marie Sousa, Founder & Board Chair; and Denise Trombly, Co-Founder and Director of Operations, sisters born and raised in Lowell, MA, celebrate the opening of the brand-new Catie's Closet Corporate Headquarters and Merrimack Valley Distribution Center at 28 Loon Hill Road, Dracut, MA 01826.

###

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](http://catiescloset.org).