



**Give clothes.
Give confidence.**



A 5th grade student was living out of a car with her parents and was in desperate need of clothes and toiletries. Catie's Closet delivered, and that student made the honor roll for the next two quarters."

-Lowell teacher

About Catie's Closet

Catie's Closet improves school attendance and graduation rates, as well as the mental, emotional, and physical health of students facing poverty, homelessness, and other crises by providing free, in-school access to clothing and basic necessities and uniting with community partners to meet students' other immediate needs.



For more information

To learn how to bring Catie's Closet to your community, please contact Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet at mickey@catiescloset.org.

www.catiescloset.org



**How to bring
Catie's Closet
to Your
Community**



Our Mission

Catie's Closet gives children in need life-changing access to clothing and basic necessities so they can thrive in school and in life.



How It Works

Catie's Closet is an in-school resource, free to students in pre-K through 12th grade. Students who have been identified by school staff as needing clothing or other basic necessities are accompanied to the closet by a trusted adult. Students shop a closet full of clothing, hygiene products and school supplies in a sensitive and discreet way. All clothing available is what students would be proud and excited to wear. Students get a shopping experience, where they select and try on items off of merchandise racks. We also provide branded shoes – the trusted adult takes a foot measurement and shoes are delivered the next day. We also have an SOS Urgent Response Program, which provides a bag containing 2-weeks worth of clothing and basic necessities, selected for each specific child's size and preferences, to meet the immediate needs of children who are transitioning between stable living conditions.



How We Supply the Closets

Our in-school closets are stocked through both donation drives and direct purchases. We are deeply grateful for the goods that come in through our clothing drives, but due to our high quality standards only 45% of donated items make it into a school closet – the rest are donated to other nonprofits or recycled. Donated goods are sorted and stored in our regional distribution centers, and closet re-stock orders are submitted regularly by volunteers at each school. To fill gaps between what is donated and what is needed, and to provide new items in certain categories like underwear and hygiene items, we regularly purchase items outright.

In one partner high school survey, 818 students were wearing/using something from Catie's Closet or had visited Catie's Closet that day.

How to bring Catie's Closet to Your Community



Catie's Closet is currently focused on expanding in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We partner with school districts to open closets in all of their schools that have a majority of students in poverty. In order to launch in a new community, we require three years of funding pledged in advance to cover the costs of stocking and maintaining full inventory in the closets.

Funding can be from a combination of sources, including the school district (required), individual schools, municipalities and philanthropic support from foundations, corporations and individuals. We work with a Community Founding Committee to identify the need in their district, calculate the cost to operate closets to meet that full need, and put together the funding to cover the costs. In general, it costs between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year per school.

