



## Shop operations projected for relocation in January

Construction continues at Pepperwood Plaza in Iowa City to transform the former Kmart building into the new Crowded Closet Thrift Shop. Some initial operations may begin relocation in January. The timeline will develop around occupancy date, to be confirmed. Donation receiving will continue at all stages of relocation and is projected to be the first phase of operations in the new shop. Grand opening date to be determined.

### What will be the same?

**Volunteers** will continue to be the “heart and soul” of Crowded Closet. Over 250 active volunteers serve regularly, and hundreds more join for one-time or short-term service.

**Giving to Mennonite Central Committee** will continue and is projected to increase as shop activity grows.

### What will be different?

**Ease of donation drop-off.** Accessible drive-thru with automatic doors at donation entrance will improve service to donors.

**All operations under one roof.** Crowded Closet presently owns the thrift shop, and a storage building across the street for salvage goods and seasonal inventory. The new facility unites all operations under one roof for increased safety and efficiency.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**Does Crowded Closet own all of the former Kmart building?** No, Crowded Closet has purchased slightly over 50% of the building.

**Is the new location bigger?** Yes, Crowded Closet currently owns 30,000 square feet (sf) with both buildings combined. Current retail space is 15,000 sf. The new location will be 50,000 sf: 24,000 retail, 14,000 processing and storage, and 12,000 sf expansion space which will be initially rented out for income.

Stay tuned to Facebook for the latest relocation updates or email [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) to receive weekly email updates.



Above: Architectural rendering of new shop. Left: Renovations continue at the new shop location at Pepperwood Plaza, 851 Highway 6 East in Iowa City, the former Kmart building.

## Changing lives locally and around the world. Shop. Donate. Volunteer.

### Up-Cycle Contest

Crowded Closet received a record breaking 21 entries for our 6th annual Up-cycle Contest. There were 141 votes cast October 2-4 for the Up-cycle contestants. Jeanine Redlinger won 1st prize with a suitcase she up-cycled into a doll house. Rita Hesson won 2nd prize with a garden sculpture. Thank you to all who participated in the contest.



### Serve MCC at Crowded Closet

#### Volunteer Openings

**Groups needed to process and stock Christmas inventory.** Schedule your service group for any evening in November.

**Retail Assistant:** Provide customer service to shoppers on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday mornings.

**Greeter:** Welcome guests to the shop any day, Monday –Thursday.

**Donation Receiving:** Greet donors and sort donations as they arrive on Monday afternoons.

**Cashier:** Join the team of cashiers to assist customers at check out. Regular openings on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

**Workshop Processing:** Prepare furniture and small appliances for sale on Thursday mornings.

Email [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) to schedule your service.

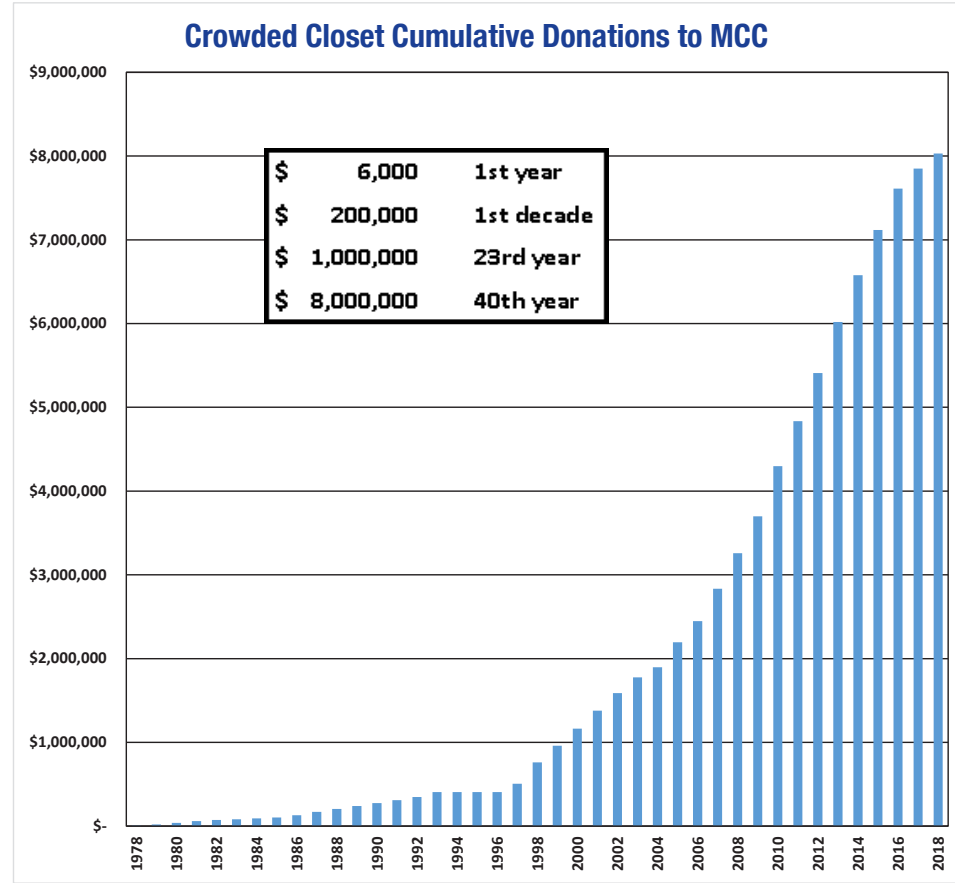
#### Staff Opening

Receiving applications for the following position:

**Donation Receiving Assistant (PT):** Provide donor service and volunteer support at donation drop-off.

## 8 Million Dollars to MCC

Crowded Closet celebrates the donation of 8 million dollars to Mennonite Central Committee since the shop opened in 1978. Forty years ago when the vision for Crowded Closet began, founders hoped to send \$20,000 a year to MCC. Few would have imagined that the shop would donate that amount – each month. Crowded Closet is one of over 100 MCC Thrift Shops in the US and Canada. MCC Thrift Shops provide 25%-30% of MCC's annual revenue. Thanks to generous donors, loyal customers, and dedicated volunteers, the impact of Crowded Closet is felt in this community and around the world.



### Crowded Closet Staff & Board

**Carey Miller**, Executive Director  
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**Christine Maust Beachy**, Volunteer Coordinator  
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**Betsy Slabaugh**, Retail Manager  
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**Alisa Ketchum**, Assistant Retail Manager  
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**Lindsey Colbert**, Processing Manager  
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**Mary Clark**, Workroom Assistant

**Bobby Morrow**, Furniture Assistant

**Emily Gaulke**, Donation Receiving Assistant

**Brandon Burke**, Custodian

**“Em” Emily Halbrooks**, Saturday Manager

**Terri Daugherty**, Saturday Manager

#### Board of Directors:

Roger Farmer, Board Chair

Bob Cumings, Vice Chair

Carol Kuhns, Secretary

Galen Graber, Treasurer

Twila Hochstedler

Larry Pickard

Sherry Schrock



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# Annual Volunteer Dinner

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF CROWDED CLOSET'S 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

Monday, November 5th  
6:00 pm Arrive for fellowship  
6:30 pm Dinner served

Upper Deer Creek Mennonite Church  
3369 320th St, Wellman

Please RSVP by Friday, October 26th to  
319-337-5924 or [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com).

Join volunteers for an evening of appreciation and celebration on Monday, November 5. RSVP to join the special 40th anniversary event. Past and present volunteers welcome.

Right: Elsie Mast and Pauline Wyse celebrate 40 years of service at Crowded Closet.



## Volunteer Spotlight



Over 30 senior high youth served more than 370 hours combined this summer. Their generous service helped support operations during the busy summer months.

Special recognition goes to Milo Yeaman who volunteered over 100 hours in various departments. Milo excelled at each task he was given. He was always ready and willing to complete the next project. He was an integral part of helping inventory flow through the workroom, and out to the retail floor during our time of high volume donations. Milo's quick wit kept the workroom smiling. When Milo was not serving at Crowded Closet, he spent his free time with his 4 year old sister, in addition to learning how to sail.

Youth interested in joining the 2019 Crowded Closet Summer Youth Volunteer program should contact [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com).

## Meet the Linens Department

One of the best things about shopping thrift is you never know what one-of-a-kind items you'll find. The linens area is one of the most unique sections at Crowded Closet. Few thrift stores offer buttons sewn by hand on card stock, fabric neatly measured and rolled, tidy wrapped bundles of yarn, fresh new feather pillows, every color of thread, embroidery floss, zippers, and unique, vintage linens. The department includes sewing accessories, as well as sheets, blankets, curtains, towels, tablecloths, and more.

Donors sometimes share unfinished projects, like cross-stitch and quilts. These project pieces are received with love and care and sold to inspire the hobbies of shoppers.

Committed volunteers patiently assess each donation. Compassionate volunteers deliver linens to those who process donations from home. The impact of Crowded Closet is possible because of the many hours volunteers spend carefully preparing donations for sale.

Visit the linens department to see what captures your imagination.

Pat Miller, Doris Bewley and Karen Meyerholz volunteer (clockwise from top).

