



2017 Summer Newsletter

Crowded Closet Contributors Over \$9,000 to MCC Relief Sale

Crowded Closet partners with the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale to raise funds to support Mennonite Central Committee for hunger relief, to meet human needs and work for peace and justice in more than 60 countries. This year Crowded Closet contributed over \$9,000 worth of merchandise in books, toys, linens, auction items, and up-cycle materials for the sale. The 2017 Iowa Mennonite Relief had a total gross income of over \$170,000. 44 relief sales will be held in 21 US states and 5 Canadian provinces. Mark your calendar for the 2018 Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale. Thank you to all who participated in this venture.



Auction



Knotting Quilts



Quilts for Auction



Crafts

A Forgotten Conflict

Your support through MCC provides comforters, canned meat, rent and other support to people fleeing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Skachkova and her two sons took a train to the safety of Nikopol, as her husband remained in Lugansk to care for his elderly parents. She left behind her job and a newly renovated home. Now, her monthly income, which comes from government support for her sons and a few dollars a day working in a store, totals about \$100. In the winter, that's barely enough to cover heating costs in the apartment she rents.

Excerpt from mcc.org



Skachkova's family

Crowded Closet Contact Info:

Phone: 319-337-5924

Website:

crowdedcloset.org

Emails:

Volunteers:

crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com

Donations:

crowdedcloset.donation@gmail.com

Retail/Gift:

crowdedcloset.ic@gmail.com

Administration:

crowdedcloset.gm@gmail.com

Up-coming Events:

Sept 18th

Association Meeting

Washington Mennonite

7:00 pm

Oct. 6th

Up-cycle finale

Nov 6th

Volunteer Appreciation

Dinner

Kalona Mennonite

6:30 pm

Check us out on :



@ thecrowdedclosetthriftstore



Crowded Closet 40th Anniversary Task Force

Crowded Closet turns 40 in 2018! An Anniversary Task Force has been formed to dream and plan how to celebrate this important milestone in the story of Crowded Closet. Anniversary events will celebrate the customers, volunteers, and churches who have supported Crowded Closet for decades. If you have suggestions or ideas, please talk to any member of the Task Force.



From left: Marlene Liechty, Julie Birk, Shirley Yoder Bell, Christine Maust Beachy, Lloyd Bewley

Volunteer Potlucks: Once a month, on a different day of the week, we have a potluck at Crowded Closet. It is a good time to stop, gather around, and chat with those you are working alongside.



From left: Carol Kuhns, Caitlin Harrington, Lauralee Kauffman, Ruth Graber

Next potlucks:

Aug 10th
Sep 13th
Oct 17th
Dec 18th

Thu
Wed
Tue
Mon



Jane Yoder

Root Beer Floats

This Spring Volunteer Appreciation Week was celebrated with root beer floats. Everyone seemed to have good memories of root beer floats.



Brandon Burke and John Ruhlow

Crowded Closet, changing lives locally and around the world

Customer Appreciation



Board members present were Roger Farmer, Vi Graber, and Galen Graber.

July 7 was Customer Appreciation Day at Crowded Closet. Board members joined the Crowded Closet team in showing their appreciation to customers by handing out popcorn and lemonade. Customers were also given unpopped popcorn with a coupon inside. A prize wheel was up-cycled by Marvin Slabaugh to spin for prizes every hour. Prizes given were Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, Crowded Closet gift certificates, a picnic set, and an up-cycled mail board.



Customer spins the wheel for prize

UPCYCLE CONTEST

1st prize: \$75 gift card to
Crowded Closet

2nd prize: \$50 gift card to
Crowded Closet



The 5th Annual Up-Cycle Contest kicked off on July 7. Deadline for all entries is October 2nd by 5:00. A portion of the up-cycle entry must be purchased from Crowded Closet. Customers vote on their favorite entry in store on Oct 3-5th. Oct 6th the winners will be announced. You have 3 months to plan and produce your product. Check our Pinterest page for ideas.



Jane Swartzentruber

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jane Swartzentruber is a regular cashier at Crowded Closet. She demonstrates that no one is too busy to volunteer. Jane drops in once each week for an hour to give lunch breaks to cashier volunteers. Her passion for volunteering and desire to help others motivates her to serve. She values interactions with people in the community and the other volunteers. In addition to volunteering, Jane is a Cost Analyst for a manufacturing plant in Iowa City, and she enjoys spending time with her family which includes three young boys. We are grateful for Jane at Crowded Closet!

Alumni News:

Deaths

Marilyn L. Yutzy 84 (Kalona, IA) February 25, 2017

Mattie Beachy 95 (Kalona, IA) May 3, 2017

Crowded Closet received memorial donations in honor of these former volunteers.

Ready to volunteer?



We need you!
Contact Christine:
319-337-5924

crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com



Crowded Closet Board of Directors:

Roger Farmer, Board Chair
Donna Yoder, Vice Chair
Vi Graber, Secretary
Galen Graber, Treasurer
Jane Schlabbaugh
Bob Cumings
Sherry Schrock

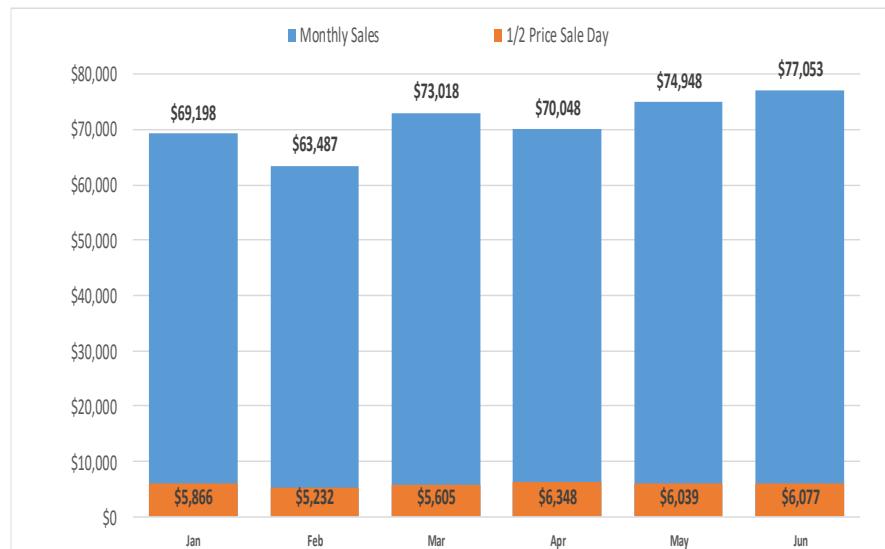


Crowded Closet proudly supports Mennonite Central Committee. MCC is a global, nonprofit organization that strives to share God's love and compassion for all through relief, development and peace. MCC is an Anabaptist organization striving to make peace a part of everything they do. When responding to disasters MCC works with local groups to distribute resources in ways that minimize conflict. In development work they plan with community and church groups to make sure the projects meet their needs. MCC advocates for policies that will lead to a more peaceful world.



Financials

Crowded Closet monthly sales and half price sale days are represented in the chart from January-June 2017. Crowded Closet is grateful to our customers and volunteers for these sales.



Job Opening

Crowded Closet Thrift Shop is seeking a part-time **Pre-sort Assistant**. Pre-sort staff serve as the face of Crowded Closet to our donors, and must provide excellent customer service, greeting, assisting, and thanking each donor and providing a high level of support for presort volunteers in order to maintain the flow of donation processing.

For more information contact Crowded Closet at 319-337-5924



Donate.

Staff at Crowded Closet



Carey Miller
Executive Director



Betsy Slabaugh
Retail Manager



Christine Maust Beachy
Volunteer Coordinator



Josh Johnson
Processing Manager



Caitlin Harrington
Processing Assistant