



Summer interns anticipate service and learning

Our first-ever, management interns joined staff the end of May and quickly jumped into the flow of work and service under the leadership of Erin Ramer, Workroom Supervisor and Summer Volunteer Coordinator. They reflect upon their reasons for choosing the internship and hopes for their experience.



Crowded Closet has always been a part of my life, so when I heard about the Summer Intern position, I was excited at the prospect of spending my summer here. Even though I've been a volunteer for many years, these first two weeks have been a steep learning curve. I've been learning how a volunteer-based organization functions, the ins and outs of the retail floor, and above all, the amount of amazing people who donate their time and resources to the Closet. I'm looking forward to spending the summer with the wonderful staff and volunteers, and I hope I can gain experience to take with me into the rest of my life.

- Rachel Geyer



I chose to be at the Crowded Closet this summer to fulfill my college internship requirement, and to gain some experience working a "real" job. So far, I've learned a multitude of things, specifically all the different jobs and tasks necessary to keep the Closet running. Something that has surprised me about the Crowded Closet is being able to experience how community-oriented it is. Prior to working here, I didn't know about the Closet's connections to local organizations, such as CommUnity and the voucher program they share. It's also amazing to see how dedicated the staff and volunteers are to the work of the Closet. I'm really looking forward to working with volunteers this summer and developing those relationships because after all, the volunteers are what make this place so great! I know that my experience at the Crowded Closet this summer will help me gain interpersonal skills to take into my future peacebuilding work.

- Brandon Jimenez



Summer management interns, Rachel Geyer and Brandon Jimenez, model Specialities clothing in the workroom.

Meet our new board members



I was thrilled to be asked to be on the board here at Crowded Closet. My wife, Beth, and I have been volunteers

and donors for many years. The staff and mission attracted both, Beth and me, to volunteer here. My background as a Lutheran School principal, Thrivent Financial advisor and licensed Deacon have given me a background in how especially non-profits function. I love how Crowded Closet enriches the community and the world with its generosity.

- Bill Benson

I'm from New York City, have four adult children and am a special education teacher with



the Iowa City Community School District. I volunteer at Crowded Closet with a student that has special needs. I love the culture at Crowded Closet and the staff is amazing. The student I support learns valuable life-long skills and working at Crowded Closet is the highlight of his day. I joined the Crowded Closet Board because I believe in its mission.

- Cynthia Ukah



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



Fire up the grill

Our fair-trade gift shop currently features a wide variety of delicious additions to your next barbeque. Spices from around the world are packaged in containers with a built-in grinder to unlock the freshness with every twist. Pair any of our three flavors of balsamic reduction with the Israeli olive oil to make a mouth-watering marinade. Not spicy enough for you? Challenge your tastebuds to new heat levels and find which of our spicy sauce blends suits your palate best.

Come see what the Crowded Closet gift shop has to take your next grill-out to the next level and help artisans around the world make a fair wage for their fine-crafted goods.

Check us out on:    

Vintage Remix

The first week of May was an exciting week for retail as we hosted our first “Vintage Remix” pop-up shop. With vintage clothing being such a huge trend, we knew we had to jump on the bandwagon and show off our amazing donations in a big way. We added five extra fixtures of vintage clothing to our already generous selection and the assortment varied with pieces from the '30s all the way through the '90s. We advertised widely on social media and in-store prior to the event. The turnout was impressive. Customers were thrilled and eager to join our mailing list in hopes of being contacted for our next event.



We ended the week with an impressive \$2,289 in vintage clothing sales, which is more than we typically sell in one month.