

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

## Community Connections



Partnerships with local service agencies amplify the impact of Crowded Closet in the community and in the lives of volunteers.

Systems Unlimited

(SU), provider of services to individuals with disabilities, partners with Crowded Closet to provide vocational training to individuals. With the support of SU staff, volunteers from SU serve weekly to support the processing of donations and to practice skills and behaviors to achieve their optimal vocational level and prepare them for employment. Other service agencies Crowded Closet has recently partnered with include Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program, Goodwill, UI REACH, Iowa City Public Schools, AARP, and The Village Community. Organizations interested in connecting their participants to service at Crowded Closet are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

## Join the Crowded Closet team!

### Staff Openings

Receiving applications for the following positions:

**Furniture Assistant** – PT or FT to support workroom processing  
**Operations Manager** – FT to lead facility and equipment maintenance and resource management  
**Receiving Assistant** – PT to provide donor service and volunteer support at donation drop off

### Volunteer Openings

**Cashier** – Provide superior customer service at the cash register on Saturday.  
**Children's Department** – Prepare children's clothing for sale on Wednesday morning.  
**Donation Receiving** – Receive and sort donations as they arrive to the shop on Friday afternoons.  
**Greeter** – Give customers a warm welcome to the shop on sale days.  
**Shoes** – Process shoes for sale on Tuesday mornings.  
**Specialties & Antiques** – Assess and process valuable collectibles and antiques for sale on Thursday mornings.  
**Workshop Processing** – Prepare furniture and electrical donations for sale any Thursday morning.

Email [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) for more information.

Check us out on:     

## 40th Anniversary Celebration

Volunteers and customers came together for five days of festive events, June 18-22. Fun sales and activities filled each day. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, shoppers enjoyed 40% off clothing, housewares, and vintage clothing in honor of the shop's 40 years in Iowa City. Tuesday, June 19, the actual anniversary date of the shop's opening, cake and lemonade were served to all guests.

Staff, volunteers, and customers celebrated by walking the runway for a much anticipated fashion show on Wednesday. A custom runway was built in the shop by Trent Yoder. Covered in retro fabric, the runway was reminiscent of the style when Crowded Closet first opened in 1978. Barb Miller and Lindsey Colbert collected vintage outfits for the show participants to wear. Customers who walked the runway received a discount on the clothes they wore. Music from the '70s pumped through the shop while participants walked the runway with their stunning outfits. Customers were a delighted and enthusiastic audience.

Thursday was the monthly ½ price sale. The busy shopping day was celebrated by giving away reusable cloth Crowded Closet shopping bags to customers.

On Friday, guests celebrated fair trade in the gift shop with samples of the food for sale in the shop. Some of the items offered were biscuits with blueberry jam, brownies, dried fruit, coffee, tea, and of course – chocolate. Customers enjoyed a 25% off discount on all fair trade items.

An information table about MCC was set up in the entrance for the duration of the week staffed daily by a board member. Board members visited with customers and educated them about the work of MCC. The table had examples of comforters, relief kits, and infant kits so customers could see the positive impact of their dollars spent at Crowded Closet. A daily drawing for a \$40 dollar gift card also added excitement each day.

*Thank you to all who helped celebrate  
40 years of Crowded Closet!*







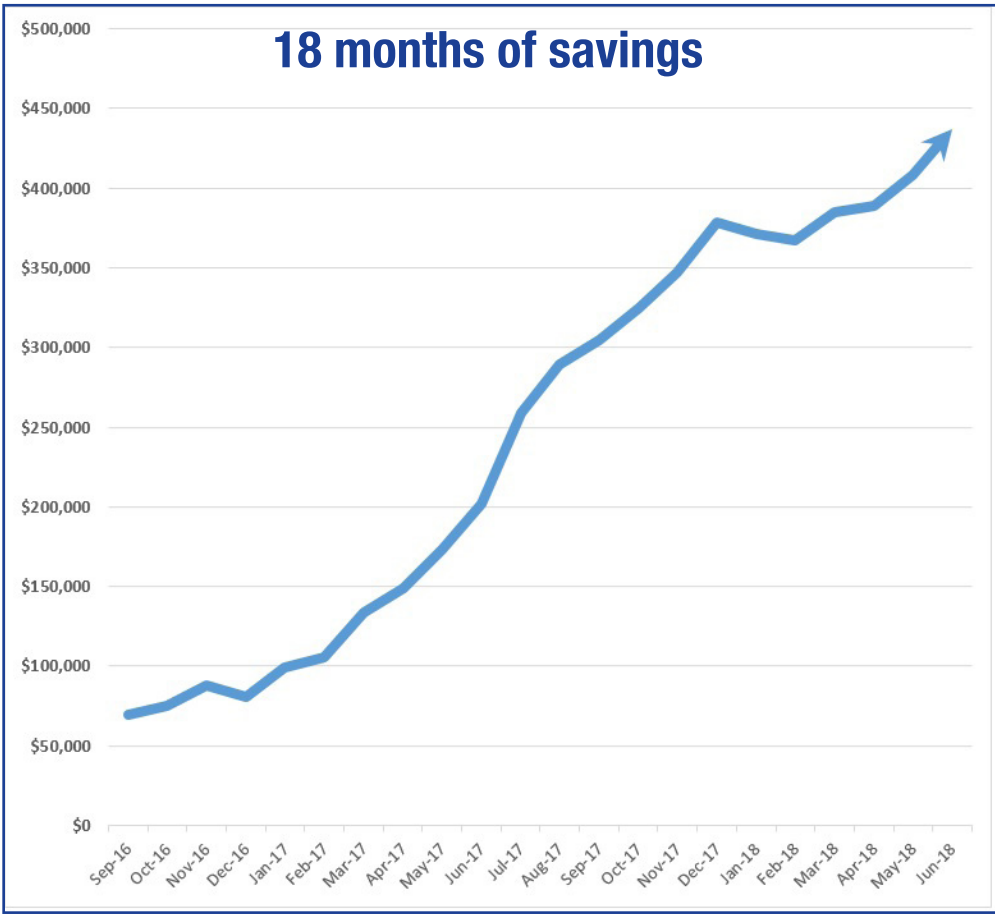
## Plans Move Ahead

Crowded Closet has grown into a team of over 250 regular volunteers and four full-time staff. A move to a new larger location within the former Kmart building off Highway 6 E in Iowa City is planned for 2019, to sustain growth, enhance visibility and improve accessibility to customers and donors. The new facility will increase parking capacity and improve ease of donation drop-offs.

Renovations are underway at the new facility. Site Task Force committee members, along with staff and volunteer representatives, attend regular meetings with Build to Suit contractors. To prepare financially for relocation, the shop has planned savings, with support of MCC Thrift leaders (see graph below).

*Photo top left: Jace Bailey, Hills Bank, Larry Pickard, CC Board Member and Galen Graber, CC Board Treasurer completing financing at Hills Bank for facility purchase.*

*Connect with relocation activity at the shop by receiving weekly shop emails with updates, events, and news. Email [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) to join the Week Ahead email list.*



## Crowded Closet Staff & Board

**Carey Miller**, Executive Director  
[crowdedcloset.gm@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.gm@gmail.com)

**Betsy Slabaugh**, Retail Manager  
[crowdedcloset.ic@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.ic@gmail.com)

**Christine Maust Beachy**, Volunteer Coordinator  
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**Lindsey Colbert**, Workroom Supervisor  
[crowdedcloset.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.lindsey@gmail.com)

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

**Terri Daugherty**, Saturday Manager

**Micah Billings**, Presort Assistant

**Mary Clarke**, Presort Assistant

**Brandon Burke**, Custodian

### Board of Directors:

Roger Farmer, Board Chair  
Bob Cumings, Vice Chair  
Carol Kuhns, Secretary  
Galen Graber, Treasurer  
Twila Hochstedler  
Larry Pickard  
Sherry Schrock

 **Crowded Closet  
MCC THRIFT SHOP**  
1213 Gilbert Court, Iowa City, IA 52240  
319-337-5924 [www.crowdedcloset.org](http://www.crowdedcloset.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight



Ileen Miller was stocking shoes one day when she met a customer looking to replace his worn out shoes, a pair he had previously purchased from Crowded Closet. He remarked that he loved the shoes Ileen was stocking, but they were not his size. Ileen returned to the workroom and found the perfect pair: name brand, black leather, and the perfect size. She priced the shoes and immediately took them out to the customer who was delighted to buy them.

The story captures Ileen’s spirit of service. Though Crowded Closet is only 30 minutes from her Kalona home, she feels service at the shop transports her from rural Midwest life and into community with diverse neighbors. Many of her customers speak other languages or face challenges in life that she does not know herself. Ileen enjoys the random encounters and the reminders to avoid judgments about others. Each person has a story and hurdles to get where they are. Ileen reminds us we cannot sit in judgment of people who are different; we are meant to be Jesus to them.

## Book Department

For 80 years, Iowa City has been teaching the world to write. Iowa City has been well known for its literary interests. Crowded Closet is happy to make books available for those literary enthusiasts.

Donations of books to Crowded Closet continue to grow every year. Volunteers in the book department work hard to pick out valuable books that the public would be interested in. Their knowledge of literature ensures important books get a chance to sell. Especially unique and valuable books are tagged with pink tags to give them a longer chance on the retail floor.

Shoppers enjoy our book section because we value local writings and showcase them together. Many shoppers enjoy reading a book and donating it back again! Some shoppers value the aesthetic of books on their shelves and use them as décor in their homes.


Even with the growth of reading online, there is still a lot of interest in books, both new and old. Perhaps you can find that book your mom threw out years ago but you remember reading as a child. Perhaps you’re interested in up-cycling the old Reader’s Digest books into letters for your book shelf. Perhaps you now have grandchildren visiting your home and you need to stock up on children’s books again. Whatever the reason, come find them here at Crowded Closet.



**10% OFF**

your next **Thrift Shop** purchase when you present this coupon (excludes Silent Auction items)  
Expires 10/31/18.

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