



Crowded Closet

MCC THRIFT SHOP

Summer 2019 Newsletter



We Rejoice in Your Provisions

On March 25th, Crowded Closet reopened with a celebratory ribbon cutting at the new Pepperwood shop location. While the new shop is less than one mile from the former Gilbert Court home, the rapid acceleration of shop operations makes the location feel much farther than a few city blocks.

This is the fourth location for the Crowded Closet. A move the faithful women of Gilbert Court could never have imagined...

In the three months since Grand Opening, shop activities have expanded in every way: countless new customers discovering Crowded Closet for the first time adding to our regulars, rising donations, larger retail floor, new volunteers, and a growing paid staff to support the increasing operations.

With thanks we recognize Your abundance; blessing upon blessing have followed us all the way...

The summer months initiate a season of increased activity at the shop. The Pepperwood summer pace is yet to be discovered! Sales in the first months of business have been record setting, a hopeful sign of growth to continue.

Guiding and providing God, we thank you for leading us to this place. Make us good stewards of the things you have entrusted to us. We pray these things with joy and with hearts bursting with gratitude because we are not alone.

Italics are excerpts from "Prayer of Dedication" written by Martha Yoder, Crowded Closet volunteer and former manager, for the Dedication Service at new shop on Sunday, March 24.



Crowds celebrate shop Dedication Service and Grand Opening.

Crowded Closet Staff & Board

FULL TIME STAFF

Carey Miller, Executive Director
crowdedcloset.ed@gmail.com

Christine Maust Beachy,
Volunteer Coordinator
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Betsy Slabaugh, Retail Manager
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Lindsey Wenger, Processing Manager
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PART TIME SUPPORT STAFF

Julie Birky, Marketing
Brandon Burke, Custodian

PART TIME RETAIL STAFF

Alisa Ketchum, Assistant Retail Manager
Em Halbrooks, Day Manager
Dea Hoeme, Day Manager

PART TIME PROCESSING STAFF

Konrad Swartz, Furniture Assistant
Bobby Morrow, Furniture Assistant
Kylie Lattimer-Price, Donation Receiver
Emily Lehman, Donation Receiver
Karlee Lehman, Donation Receiver
Mary Clark, Donation Receiver
Vickey Resner, Donation Receiver
Rachel Collins, Donation Receiver
Ann French, Donation Receiver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Bob Cumings, Vice Chair
Carol Kuhns, Secretary
Galen Graber, Treasurer
Shelby Graber
David Heusinkveld
Twila Hochstedler
Laurie Kauffman
Larry Pickard



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Coming this Summer

It is our first summer in our new location! We are excited to share our upcoming events and eagerly invite your participation.

The first event is our **2nd Annual Crowded Closet Fashion Show** on Saturday, July 13th. The show starts at 10 am on the retail floor. We are excited to have customers and volunteers involved in walking the runway in vintage clothing.

Register to walk the runway and earn a \$10 gift certificate to Crowded Closet. We will be serving treats and offering 25% off all specialty vintage clothing in addition to our regular Saturday sales.



The second upcoming event is our **7th annual Up-cycle Contest**. To enter the contest you need to purchase something from Crowded Closet and refurbish or repurpose the item into an up-cycled masterpiece. Can you spot any up-cycled fixtures in our store?

- Deadline for entries is Monday, October 7th.
- In-store voting is October 8-10.
- Winners will be announced Friday, October 11.

Last year we had a record breaking 21 entries and we are looking forward to what turns up for this year's contest in the new space. Stop in our shop August 1st to get a flyer about entry details.

Stay tuned for an announcement in August about our **Back to School Sale** on Clothing.

Expansion Space

Come be our neighbor!

Crowded Closet has an 11,000 sq ft expansion space for lease. Interested parties should contact Wendell Miller at wendell@skogman.com.



Finance Update

Since moving to our new location at Pepperwood we have experienced new records in the 41-year history of Crowded Closet:

- Opening day was our highest single sale day
- Our highest single week of sales
- 4 of our top 6 weeks of sales
- April & May are the 2 highest months of sales (typically ranked 9th & 10th)

Volunteer Spotlight



Lafena Hostetler is a treasured volunteer at Crowded Closet where she serves full days several times a month as cashier. Her cash drawers are “to the penny” too many times to count. Her attention to detail is no surprise since she worked for 40 years at Reif’s in Kalona before joining Crowded Closet. At 93 years old, Lafena gives thanks for her health. She enjoys volunteering and believes everyone should give it a try. She thinks each day is interesting at the Closet and loves meeting the customers. We celebrate Lafena’s spirit of service and kindness to each shop guest.

Serve with Friends at Crowded Closet

Volunteers make it possible to transform donated goods into relief, development and peace projects of Mennonite Central Committee. Join this creative, resourceful, purposeful service!

Flexible schedules. New volunteers and groups welcome!

Do you find yourself straightening items as you shop? Join Bethany, Ann, Serecia, and Ken as a Retail Assistant to keep the shop looking neat and tidy.

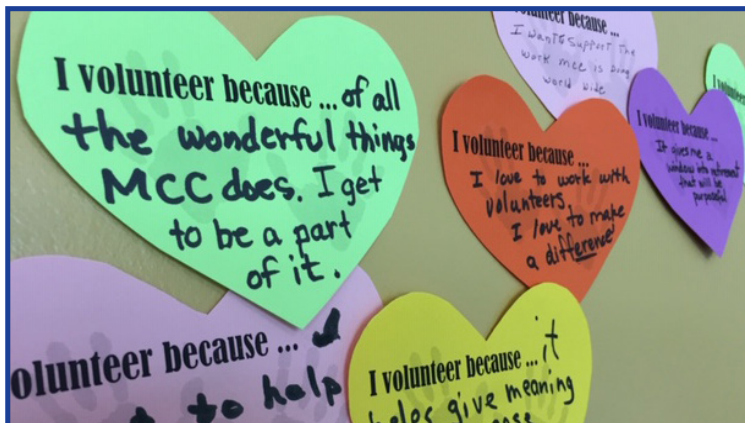
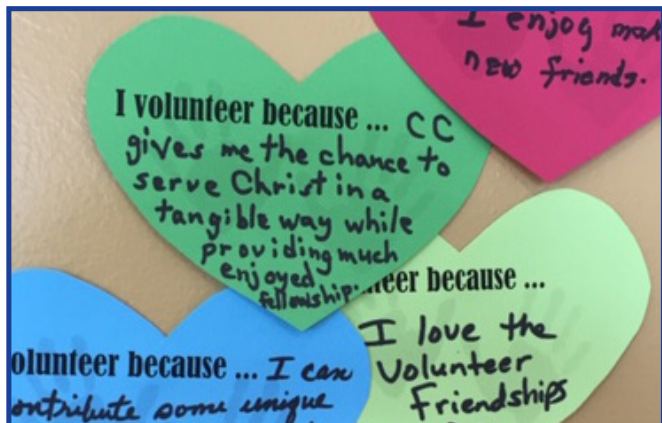
Do you have an adventurous spirit and enjoy a treasure hunt? Join Grace, Cheryl, Joanne, Gerry, and others in Donation Receiving. Greet donors and sort donations as they arrive.

Do you have a friendly smile and attention to detail? Join the team of over 50 active cashiers who serve shop guests.

Do you like to tinker in the workshop? Join Lee, Gene, Cal, George and others in the shop to prepare furniture and small appliances for sale.

Email Christine at crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com to plan your service.

Volunteers reflect on the purpose and meaning of service during Volunteer Appreciation Week.





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



Providing disaster relief in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai

Your donations, volunteer service, and shopping at Crowded Closet make a tangible difference in the world. Through Crowded Closet, over 8 million dollars has been contributed to Mennonite Central Committee.

The aftermath of the tropical storm in Southeast Africa continues to affect nearly 3 million people in the region. MCC is active in Malawi and Mozambique through the distribution of food assistance and emergency supplies.

Read more about MCC's relief in Malawi and Mozambique at mcc.org