

Why I Serve at The Children's Closet

There are so many reasons I serve at the Children's Closet. When my husband died, it was to escape and deal with the grief. The volunteers are such joyful givers that we seem to laugh continually while we work. The dedication I see each and every day we work, gives me peace and a sense of purpose. Most of all I feel like I am serving God as we serve these children. I was a teacher for 32 years and when I retired I spent 6 months cleaning and organizing my home. At the completion of that task I was at a loss for how to spend my time and feel needed again.

Mary Ann Dorris reached out to me and convinced me to volunteer at the Closet. I promised one hour, I stayed the whole day and came back again and again. The Closet became my connection to the Church, a new group of friends and most of all we were helping children.

The Closet's method of distribution has changed over the years that I have been involved, but the mission has always been the same, "feed my lambs." Certainly not in the literal sense; we do not feed the children, but we do feed their souls and their feeling of self-worth.

Who doesn't like the feeling of putting on something new? The counselors complete a form on our website and are able to order two uniforms. A uniform consists of a collared shirt, white or navy blue and a pair of jeans or khaki shorts. We generally add underwear and socks.

We received a call from a counselor telling us that a 7-year-old boy was so excited about his new uniform she had to share. When she gave him the sack and he realized what was inside he said, "I have never had a new uniform, I have always worn my big brother's old uniforms." We had another child that was homeless and living in a car with his mother. The counselor asked for extra uniforms so he would have clean clothes to wear at school. The mother cried when the counselor told her about the uniforms and extra clothing we were able to give. That why I serve at the Children's Closet because each and every day a family see God through our efforts and I see a church and congregation that fulfills the promise of "feed my lambs."

—Maurine Wood, Longtime Children's Closet Volunteer

