

Round Rock Council of PTAs Clothes Closet

The RRISD Clothes Closet is a district wide PTA volunteer effort that is designed to help those who are less fortunate in our own school district. This cause is intended to improve the self-esteem of the children in our district whose families or guardians may be economically challenged. It was established in 1976 as one of the very first service projects taken on by the RR Council of PTAs and is stronger than ever, nearly 35 years later.

Its original location was an actual closet located at Berkman Elementary School, consisting of food and clothing. As the program grew it was relocated to the Old Buss Barn at Old McNeil and I-35. In the early 1990's then, Superintendent Dr. McLendon provided the portable on the Voigt campus, which continues to serve our families today. In 1996, the RR Council of the PTAs dedicated the Clothes Closet building to David and Refugia (Cuca) Carlin, for their commitment to families, education and community service here in Round Rock. Through Catholic Charities, Mrs. Carlin was a pioneer with this program by providing food and clothing to migrant workers in Round Rock.

Thanks to Dr. Chavez, our RRISD Superintendent, as of August 31, 2010 we will have 2 locations for the Clothes Closet. These include, the original building on the campus of Voigt Elementary off School Days Road, and our new, second location in the front portable on the campus of Anderson Mill Elementary. With two locations we will be better suited to meet the growing needs of our district.

School nurses issue the forms to families who wish to 'shop' the closet. These forms are valid for one (1) school year, (August through May). A family's need may be an ongoing one or a temporary one. Families with children in multiple schools will require signed forms from the school nurse at each school their child attends. A nurse may not sign a form for a child attending another RRISD school.

The parents or guardians then bring the forms to the Clothes Closet where they register and are entitled over the course of each semester, to obtain 5 tops (blouse, shirts, t-shirts), 5 pairs of pants (shorts, skirts, jeans, or a combination thereof), 5 new pairs of socks and 5 new pairs of underwear. Each student is also permitted a light and heavier weighted jacket plus a sweatshirt for the school year.

The Closets are opened from 9:30a – 11:30a every Tuesday, at the Anderson Mill location, and on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, at the Voigt location, and follow the school calendar. Clothes can be donated by district families and left with your school nurse. Today all 47 local PTAs within the Round Rock ISD collaborate to collect gently used clothing, along with brand new socks and underwear for our students, as well as provide volunteers to run the closet. They also contribute monetary donations each year to the RRISD Council of PTAs for support of the Clothes Closet. These funds are used to purchase new underwear and socks. ***Individual monetary donations are also accepted. (Receipts are available.) Checks are payable to RRISD Council of PTA Clothes Closet.*** It is essential all clothing donations be cleaned, follow RRISD dress code with no rips, tears, inappropriate wording and include clothing that would be worn in school only (no sleepwear, swim wear, sport team attire, etc.). Sizes include 4T through adult.

Last year alone we served nearly 900 students with 100 of them visiting the Closet the first week of school. These numbers equate to 9000 pairs of underwear and socks for the school year, along with 9000 pairs of pants, tops, 1800 jackets and 900 sweatshirts! As you can see we depend significantly on donations.

Laura McGuigan
Clothes Closet Chair, RRISD Council of the PTAs

lmcquigan@austin.rr.com
512-296-5753