

Clothes Closet for Boring goal to work for

by GWEN BOGH
Post Correspondent

Having served 250 children since last September, the Clackamas County Clothes Closet has met its objective—to provide free clothing to those who need it.

The store was originally housed in a barn. That was 11 years ago. Now it is located in a building on Clackamas Community College grounds, behind the Women's Resource Center.

Members of the local fire department and area citizens built the building for the Oregon City Junior Women, known as "Rainbow Two," which now houses the Clothes Closet.

They distribute toys throughout the area. A room off the building was donated, rent-free including utilities, to Clothes Closet coordinators.

Before the Clothes Closet

was in existence, individual schools had to form their own annex for the purpose of providing adequate clothing to various children.

This arrangement didn't work well for the child that ended up wearing something another child recognized. There was a certain stigma about the clothing that led to ill feelings.

Members of the PTA thought that this problem could be avoided if there was a centrally-located store where donations could be received throughout Clackamas County.

Many clothes are available at the store including coats, hats, pants, shoes and underwear, according to Regina Haes, Clothes Closet coordinator this year. She opens the store every Thursday from

9:30 to 12:30. Children from age five through 18, that meet the criteria for receiving free clothing, are helped.

Ordinarily, school principals or teachers will refer students to the store, but there have been occasions when Head Start and Children's Services have contacted the Clothes Closet for clothing.

Many of the items in the store are collected by clothing drives through the PTA. They only ask that the clothes be clean and mended.

Running out of a certain size of clothing can be a problem, according to Haes. "Sometimes you feel really bad when you don't have something for them to wear," she said. But, Haes feels good about the 250 children that have been helped by the Clothes Closet this year.

Connie Reynolds, Boring PTA president, hopes to bring a Clothes Closet to the Boring area. She said that she's discussed the idea with the PTA board, and they are receptive to the idea, though it may take



Regina Haes

some time before it becomes a reality. "The problem is getting action," she said.

Reynolds said that in order to have a Clothes Closet, many details would have to be worked out, in-

cluding finding a place of business. She's looking to community service groups for help.

There are only two or three places people can go to get free clothing. This is why Reynolds persists in working for a Clothes Closet in Boring. "The avenues for the person with school-aged children to get clothes free is nil," she

said.

Another reason she deems a Clothes Closet a necessity in Boring is that the original store in Oregon City at Clackamas Community College is so far away as to be inaccessible to many people in the area for reasons of distance and transportation.

Reynolds describes the

Clothes Closet as "one of the most important and most tangible things that the PTA does." She's working hard toward bringing a Clothes Closet to Boring, but it may be a year or two before one is actually begun.

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