

Mansfield ISD Council of PTAs Clothes Closet

Mansfield ISD Council of PTAs is comprised of all the local campus PTAs in the school district. One of the Council's greatest achievements in 2000 was the opening of the Clothes Closet. This program had been in the planning stages for three years as prospects for the site were researched and final decisions were made on the location for this momentous endeavor in our district. With the help of our school administrators, the site was finally selected. Moving took place, and the Clothes Closet officially opened in October 2000.

The goal of the Clothes Closet was to be able to offer every student the opportunity to dress for a successful educational experience. Collecting the unclaimed lost and found clothing items from the initial twelve local unit campuses and receiving donations from PTA leaders, we were able to open the Closet. The clothing being offered, free to all Mansfield ISD students, was clean and gently worn. Donations had poured in as local units donated funds to the Closet program to purchase clothing racks and other structural needs for the room. PTAs had conducted campus clothing drives, filling the Clothes Closet with new blue jeans, underwear and socks. Several churches and teacher organizations had made similar donations.

Totally manned and operated by PTA volunteers, the Clothes Closet distributed over 185 coats and jackets in December 2000. By March 2001, 495 students in our district had made clothing selections. Contributions continued to pour in.

School administration had promised to enlarge our facility, providing double the space in the coming year. The acceptance of this program had been overwhelming. September 24, 2001, the Clothes closet had a grand re-opening as the room had been renovated to double its original size. August 2004, we were once again moved to even better accommodations.

Today, almost seven years after the Clothes Closet's opening, the room is overflowing with just as much brand new clothing as gently used items. PTAs have sponsored "Sock Hops" for new socks, penny drives for new clothing, blue jean drives, and many, many any other programs to raise awareness of the needs of the Clothes Closet and supply it with wonderful clothing items. The Mansfield ISD Athletic Booster's organizes a yearly coat drive that generates 300-400 coats. Local businesses, such as Kroger, have contributed funds as well as individual families making considerable donations. A cooperative effort was formed with the Mansfield Wesley Mission Center as a venue for screened referrals for additional outreach purposes.

The Mansfield ISD Council of PTAs Clothes Closet 's continued success comes from the overwhelming support of the many PTA Volunteers that work each week, the support of school administrators, local businesses and Mansfield ISD families.

The Clothes Closet is open every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to be of service to any family that has received a voucher from their school, indicating that they have MISD students. Free clothing is available to any MISD family or student just by stopping by and selecting items from the large inventory maintained. If you are anyone you know if interested is volunteering quality time to work at the Clothes Closet on Mondays, please contact us. Various duties might include sorting, straightening racks, folding clothes and servicing families. Come join us in a gratifying service to others.

MISD Council of PTAs Clothes Closet
Located at the Alternative Education Center
Room C1
902 E. Broad St. Mansfield0
Hours of operation are 9:00am-4:00pm.
Contact Kathy Severe, Clothes Closet Chairperson
Sasibon2@aol.com or 817-473-0541