

### **What is the FIT Closet and Clothing Exchange?**

The **Families in Transition (FIT) Closet** is a program of the USD383 school district that began as a service to homeless children from Head Start/Pre-K through High School. In the school year 2015-2016, we had over 300 children who were identified as homeless (FIT).

Schools are required by federal law to make sure these children are outfitted for school but are not funded to do so. The FIT Closet is USD383's means of providing necessary school supplies, shoes, clothing, coats, toiletries, hygiene supplies, emergency food and other essentials so these children can attend class and integrate successfully.

The FIT Closet and Clothing Exchange is a 100% community supported project. The College Avenue Methodist Church donates the building the FIT closet is housed in; it is managed and staffed by volunteers; and caring individuals, churches and businesses of the community donate all supplies.

Without this honor roll of supportive, caring individuals and entities, the FIT Closet would not exist.

Because of Manhattan's generosity, the FIT Closet is able to assist not only homeless students and their families but also migrant students and their families; students and families living in poverty; students in Foster care; and children with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

**The FIT Closet is located at 1609 College Avenue in the "White House" behind the College Ave. United Methodist Church.** We are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 until noon and Wed. and Thurs. afternoons 3- 5:30. Donations are welcome at that time. You can call Barb Hartnett, the FIT Closet coordinator at 785-236-9944 to make arrangements to drop off donations, volunteer, or if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your interest and your help.

Barb Hartnett  
USD383 FIT Closet Coordinator

[fitcloset383@gmail.com](mailto:fitcloset383@gmail.com)

Child Homelessness Up, Kansas Schools Report\*

Kansas schools identified about 10,400 homeless students last year\* Posted at 7:29 p.m. Dec. 27, 2014 by the Kansas Department of Education.

Homeless Students: Number of homeless students attending Kansas K-12 public schools.

2007: 3,569	2008: 4,890
2009: 6,700	2010: 8,452
2011: 8,996	2012: 8,911
2013: 9,330	2014: 10,378

Source: Kansas Department of Education

"During the 2016-2017 school year our number of FIT children rose to over 360. We also saw a disturbing number of children identified as *"unaccompanied"* children and youth; those being children without any adult supervision. My heart breaks for these kids as I know yours does also. Thank you for your support." **Barb Hartnett**

## FIT CLOSET Supply List

(new or clean and gently used clothing only)

### Underwear (new only)

- Men and Women's underwear all sizes (bras also, esp. sport)
- Girls and Boys underwear all sizes (2T & up)

### Socks (new)

- Men and Women's socks (both white athletic and non-white)
- Youth and Children's socks all sizes (both white athletic and non)

### Other Clothing

- baby clothing (newborn to 24 months) \* We do not take other baby items except diapers
- Boys' pants and tops sizes 2T- Adult 3XL
- Girls' pants and tops sizes 2T- Adult 3XL
- Girls' and ladies' dresses and skirts all sizes – school appropriate
- Jackets/fleeces/hoodies – 2T-Adult 3XL sizes
- Pajamas all sizes
- Belts
- Hats, mittens, scarves
- Coats all sizes 2T- Adult XXL

### Athletic Wear

- Shorts Youth S, M, L, and XL (Black or dark blue)Adult S-3XL
- Sweatpants Youth sizes S, M, L and XL Adult S- 3XL
- Sweat shirts S, M, L and XL youth, Adult S-3XL

### Other Items

- Laundry soap and other cleaning supplies; i.e., dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, all-purpose cleaner-Mr. Clean
- Toilet paper
- Diapers –all sizes
- Pull-ups
- Feminine Hygiene products- pads and tampons
- Gift cards
- Bed linens, pillow cases, mattress covers, sheets, Twin, Double and queen and blankets
- Deodorant and other toiletry items
- Money donations -HUGS account USD 383 – Dr. Stan Ward PhD

### School Supplies (items in addition to pens, pencils, paper etc.)

- Ear buds for computer work
- Hand sanitizer
- Clorox wipes
- Pocket folders
- Trapper Keepers
- Tissues
- Watercolor paints
- 3 –ring binders
- Compass and protractors
- Rulers
- Recorders (musical instruments)
- Beach towels
- Dry erase markers
- Clipboards
- Red pens
- Pocket dictionaries
- Erasable black or blue pens
- Highlighters
- Notecards 3x5
- Zip lock bags (quart and gallon sizes)
- Colored pencils
- Scientific calculator TI 30X IIS
- Flash drive
- Construction paper

### Shoes

- School appropriate shoes (Toddler sizes through lg men and women's sizes)
- Gym shoes Children and Adult sizes
- Snow boots

### Contact Information:

**Barb Hartnett 785-236-9944**

**fitcloset383@gmail.com**

**USD 383 FIT Closet Coordinator**

**Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-12, Wed. & Thurs. 3-5:30**

**LOCATION -WHITE HOUSE BEHIND COLLEGE AVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH -1609 COLLEGE AVE.**