



## York County Foster Care Closet Training Manual

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

Facebook: *York County Foster Care Closet*

**Mission:** Our mission is to love and serve foster and adoptive families in our community primarily by meeting practical needs such as clothing, equipment, furniture, supplies, meals, etc.

**General info:** We provide high quality, donated clothing to foster parents in the community from our "boutique" Closet at no cost. The Closet is a temperature controlled storage unit where families come to shop by appointment. We provide clothing, baby equipment, bedding, shoes, diapers, wipes, feeding equipment, car seats, strollers, school supplies, furniture, etc. We accept male and female "**current season**" clothing donations in most sizes from newborn up to 10-12. We love it when clothes come to us sorted by size. We operate under a 501(c)3 and are able to provide a receipt if requested. The Closet is located in Fort Mill off 160 near Baxter Village. We have donation drop off locations in Fort Mill, Indian Land, and Ballantyne. Our Fort Mill drop off locations are in Baxter, near Publix, and near Nation Ford High School. Please email us or send us a message on Facebook to coordinate donation drop off of donations.

### What we accept:

- We post most urgent needs on the York County Foster Care Closet Facebook page
- We are very grateful for the donations we receive, but with our space limitations, we can only stock a certain number of items so always check with us first before donating.
- Gently used or new clothing - sizes preemie to 10-12
- Gently used or new pajamas
- Gently used or new school uniforms
- Gently used or new Jackets
- NEW socks and underwear (*only new*)
- Diapers and wipes and pull-ups
- Baby equipment: strollers, swings, crib bedding, blankets, bottles
- Cribs manufactured after 2012
- Gift cards for clothing stores for children in sizes greater than what we keep in stock (*Old Navy; Hollister; Abercrombie; Dick's Sporting Goods, Kohl's, etc.*)

- Gift cards for restaurants foster families (ChickFilA; Wendy's; Subway; Pizza; etc.)

### **What we do NOT accept:**

- Clothing that is worn, faded, has holes
- Clothing with words or logos with family descriptors (Mommy's angel, Daddy's sweetheart)
- Holiday outfits
- Special occasion clothes
- USED socks and underwear (must be new)
- Toys
- Car seats

### **How the Closet is organized:**

Current season clothing stored in the main unit for shopping; offseason stored in a separate, adjacent storage unit

Racks start on the left wall at the Closet with newborn

Each size is sorted by gender, hang size on youngest rack (3-6 months will be put on 3 mo rack)

Each size has clothing sorted starting on left side of rack: PAJAMAS, SHIRTS, PANTS/SHIRTS, OUTFITS, JACKETS

We keep an inventory of clothing items in the Closet so we are able to keep track of sizes we need. It is very important when hanging clothing to hang clothes on the right size rack.

### **Volunteer opportunities:**

#### **1. Sort, wash, hang donated clothing**

All clothing must be visibly clean. We sort all clothing by gender, size, clothing type, and season. We hang all needed clothing in Closet for display. Contact [yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com) to set up pickup and drop off of clothing that needs to be sorted/hung and hangers for task. Sorting and hanging projects can be completed at your home or LifeGroup meeting location. Hung clothing will be dropped off to Forest Hill Fort Mill Campus on Sunday to one of the Closet coordinators. We will provide sorting/hanging instructions.

#### **2. Aid in new season switch over of clothing**

We pack up spring/summer clothing to store offsite at end of season and put up all winter clothing typically in September. We need volunteers to load cars with bins of sorted clothing at offsite location and bring to the Closet. We will unload bins and hang clothing according to size and gender. We also need volunteers to load bins of the opposite season and return to offsite location for storage. Contact [yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com) to sign up for Closet switch over date. \*\*\*\* This is a project we typically do in September and March.

#### **3. Connect your Life Group with a foster family for service opportunities**

If your group would like to serve families directly, we will attempt to connect you with a foster family in York County to aid them in their desired needs (example: order dinner, provide freezer meal, do yard work, prayer support, wash cars). Contact [yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com) for additional details.

#### **4. Clean the Closet**

Quick volunteer opportunity to set up an appointment to access the Closet and tidy up. Please bring a vacuum. Contact [yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com) for additional details.

#### **5. Work open hours of Closet**

Would you like to volunteer to assist foster families during open hours at the Closet? **We currently meet by appointment only for shopping with families.** We would like to move towards open hours on a monthly basis for a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday.

#### **6. Hold a prayer meeting for the Closet and families served**

We can provide you a Prayer Guide. You organize a meeting of friends and/or family to prayer for foster families in the community.

#### **7. Freezer meal train**

Provide frozen homemade or store bought meals in disposable casserole dish with a label of meal name, date made, and basic ingredient list. Host a night with friends to cook and donate! Contact [yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcountyfostercloset@gmail.com) to set up drop off or pick up of meals to be distributed to foster families.

#### **8. Follow us on Facebook**

We post immediate needs for foster families in York County

#### **9. Host a gift card, NEW socks and underwear, or hanger drive**

Organize a drive with your community or friends to collect gift cards (for meals or clothing), or new socks and underwear for children age 0-12, or collect infant and adult size hangers. We have had creative friends in the past host a birthday party and ask for pajamas and socks to donate to the Closet in lieu of a gift. We have had elementary aged boys in LifeGroups host a sock and underwear drive.

#### **10. Do you have a special skill or talent you could donate to a foster family?**

We have been networking with foster families to find practical ways to serve them. Recently, a family mentioned a need of having all clothes purchased altered to fit their child. Can you sew? Babysit? How can you help?

#### **Other service opportunities in the community:**

1. Group / Individual - **The Children's Attention Home** in Rock Hill  
<http://attentionhome.org> 803-328-8871 info@attentionhome.org
2. Group / Individual - **Palmetto School** in Rock Hill (<http://thepalmettoschool.org/>)
3. Individual - Become a **court-appointed advocate for a child** in the foster care system by volunteering as a Guardian Ad Litem through DSS (approximately 4-6 hours per month)  
<http://gal.sc.gov/volunteer.html>
4. Individual - Consider getting licensed with DSS to provide **Respite Care** for foster families throughout the community.