Community Collaboration in PTA Service Projects

Hazelwood – Food 4 Thought
Springfield – The PTA Clothing Bank

Two Projects in Missouri

- Food 4 Thought in Hazelwood
- Presented by Margaret Slaughter, Chairperson
- Since 2014
- Hazelwood PTA Council

- The PTA Clothing Bank in Springfield
- Presented by Allison Lawson, Council VP
- Since 1974
- Springfield Council of PTAs

Sponsored by Hazelwood PTA Council
Margaret Slaughter, Chairperson

Food 4 Thought was launched in January, 2014 to aid Hazelwood School District students and families in need.

What is Food 4 Thought?

Food 4 Thought is a food closet operated and maintained by Hazelwood PTA Council

Why Food 4 Thought?

Statistics show that food insecurity contributes to a students' poor academic performance. The USDA defines **food insecure** as *"household or individual condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food".*

How is **Food 4 Thought** maintained?

Food 4 Thought is maintained by 100% donations:

- ✓ food drives
- ✓ community donations
- ✓ monetary donations

The District houses FOUR closets at each of the High Schools (Central, East and West), as well as one at the Opportunity Center, however, assistance is available to ALL 33 schools in the District.

Students and families in need are identified by District staff (i.e., social worker, teacher, cafeteria staff, etc.), and items are distributed by the social workers.

Food 4 Thought stock

The Closets are stocked with non-perishable food items. We discourage donation of cans or glass.

All donated items must be microwavable & individually packed. We do not accept frozen or refrigerated items.

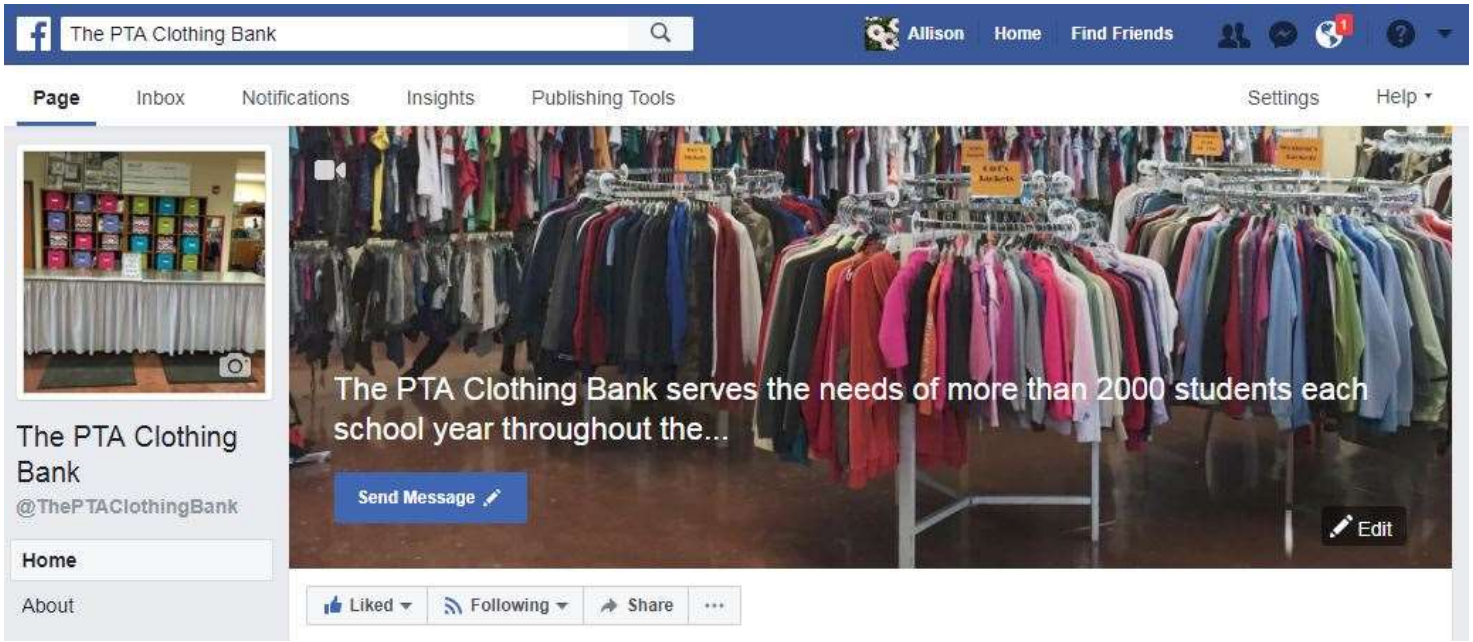
Examples of food drives hosted

Food Items

- Box of instant oatmeal (individual packets)
- Full or mini sized boxes of cereal
- Breakfast bars
- Microwavable Stew, Ravioli, Pasta bowl, Soup
- *(no cans, please)*
-
- Libby's microwaveable vegetables
- *(green beans, sweet corn, sweet peas & diced carrots)*
-
- Microwavable macaroni & cheese bowls
- Peanut Butter *(plastic jar OR 'To Go' serving size)*
-
- Jelly or Jam (plastic jar)
- Pop Tarts
- Ramen Noodle bowls / packets
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese / Spaghetti
- Hormel Compleats Meals *(Breakfast and dinner)*
- Pasta sides
- Tuna or Chicken pouches
- Bumblebee on-the-go Chicken or Tuna
- Crackers (in individual sleeves)
- Pasts sauce (plastic jar)

- **Snack Items**
- Granola Bars / Luna bars
- Pretzels, Goldfish or Cheezits *(individual bags)*
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers
- Fruit Snacks
- Muffins / Sun Chips
-
- Applesauce, Peaches, Pears, Mixed Fruit
- *(individual fruit cups- no cans)*
-
- **Miscellaneous**
- New or gently used back packs, Plastic bags, recyclable bags, Paper Plates, Bowls, Forks, Spoons, Napkins, Bottled water, Hand sanitizer, Wipes
- $10.00 Gift Cards (Schnucks, Wal-Mart)

The PTA Clothing Bank



Project of Springfield Council of PTAs
Allison Lawson,
Vice-President Health & Public Services

Girls' Coats
Check In Here
Please leave hangers on the clothing racks so we can check you out even faster! Thank you!
Welcome

The PTA Clothing Bank operated by Springfield Council of PTAs since 1975 assists with clothing & shoes for students identify as being in need of assistance.

What is
The PTA Clothing Bank?

The PTA Clothing Bank is a free clothing store visited more than 2000 times each school year by students from the 55 schools in the Springfield Public Schools R-12 district.

What does **The PTA Clothing Bank** provide?

- ✓ 3 shopping visits per referred student during each regular school year (Aug-May) + 1 visit during summer school

- ✓ At each visit: 5 tops, 3 bottoms, 1 light-weight jacket, 1 pair used shoes, other items as available
- ✓ At two visits per year: 1 package of new socks & 1 package of new underwear
- ✓ At one visit per year: 1 winter coat

What are our goals?

- ***Basic needs*** *- Our goal is to make sure students are ready to learn. Providing clothing & shoes removes one obstacle.*
- ***Self-esteem*** *– All clothing is either new, like-new or gently-used. We strive to provide in-style, fashionable clothing to bring joy to our students, with no stigma.*
- ***Positive experience*** *– The PTA Clothing Bank is setup to feel like a boutique clothing store to provide a fun shopping experience for students with a great selection and great customer service - there is just no money needed to shop.*

Every child and family should feel like valued and appreciated customers.

How do we operate & maintain **The PTA Clothing Bank**?

- The PTA Clothing Bank is managed by the Springfield Council of PTAs on behalf of our PTA units.
- No paid staff – all volunteers
- All donation – we do not sell any clothing

- In partnership with school & community

Who are our major partners at **The PTA Clothing Bank**?

- **Springfield Public Schools** provides our building along with IT, security, utilities, custodian & general services.
  - The PTA Clothing Bank data collection & reporting for school district including number & value of items provided and volunteer hours worked. The PTA Clothing Bank assists the school district in their efforts to meet requirements of McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987

- The **Kiwanis of Ozark Empire** provides a Shoe Bank that operates within The PTA Clothing Bank. They provide students with a pair of new shoes one time per year.
  - The PTA Clothing Bank handles all student information & data reporting for the Kiwanis Shoe Bank.

Other major partners at **The PTA Clothing Bank**?

- **The Missouri Council of the Blind & MCB Thrift Stores** provide us with the essential service of removing all unusable donations from our facility every week!
  - We receive more donations than we can use, especially in women's clothing. We also receive many items that do not meet our requirement to be "gently-used" or "like-new". We send everything on to other charities with the bulk going to MCB. We would be buried under donations without them.

How is **The PTA Clothing Bank** funded?

Springfield Council of PTAs

- ✓ One fundraiser per year – MajorSaver card sale to fund all council projects, including The PTA Clothing Bank
  - Our budget is $13,000 for new socks & underwear – but we give out substantially more than $13,000 worth of socks & underwear.

PTA units & community partners

- ✓ Sock & underwear donation drives
- ✓ Gently-used or like-new clothing donations
- ✓ Monetary donations
- ✓ Volunteers

How do we **The PTA Clothing Bank** funded?

Springfield Council of PTAs

- ✓ One fundraiser per year – MajorSaver card sale to fund all council projects, including The PTA Clothing Bank
  - Our budget is $13,000 for new socks & underwear – but we give out substantially more than $13,000 worth of socks & underwear.

PTA units & community partners

- ✓ Sock & underwear donation drives
- ✓ Gently-used or like-new clothing donations
- ✓ Monetary donations
- ✓ Volunteers

What does it take to make **The PTA Clothing Bank** successful?

Shoppers – students & their families

- ✓ Our goal is to get clothes to kids!

Donations

- ✓ A constant flow of new donations are necessary. We have had over 2,000 student visits to The PTA Clothing Bank already this year.

Volunteers

- ✓ There is too much work for any one person or even one small group. Though we have a core team that always volunteers, it is essential to have a constant pool of additional volunteers. We need about a minimum of 10-15 volunteers working from 1-10 hours each every week.

QUESTIONS?

If anyone is interested, you can visit
The PTA Clothing Bank
in Springfield for a brief tour
immediately after convention….

Google Maps “The PTA Clothing Bank”

Additional Resource

E-learning Course from National PTA:

Running a Successful Program Learn the steps for taking a program idea from concept to reality. *approx. 30 min*

http://www2.pta.org/NewRunningProgram

E-learning Course from National PTA:

Running a Successful Program Learn the steps for taking a program idea from concept to reality. *approx. 30 min*

http://www2.pta.org/NewRunningProgram

What is a successful PTA Program?

A program can be just about any organized, ongoing effort that:

- **Responds to a real issue, not an imagined one.**
- **Improves students' lives and school communities.**
- **Recognizes all participants' contributions as important and necessary.**
- **Is based on a realistic assessment of resources available.**
- **Aims for specific goals and objectives with measurable results.**
- **Builds partnerships in the school community.**

E-learning Course from National PTA:

Running a Successful Program Learn the steps for taking a program idea from concept to reality. *approx. 30 min*

http://www2.pta.org/NewRunningProgram

There are six main steps to creating an effective project that fits your school community's needs.

By following the steps outlined here, you will have all of the information and materials you need to get started:

PTA