

Clothing Closet FAQ

What is it?

A self-serve clothing lending library where you can borrow what you need and return it when your family is done with it.

Is it only clothing?

No! For infants there are hats, swaddles (occasionally), blankets, bibs, and cloth diapers. For toddlers there are shoes, boots, sandals, hats, snow pants, and coats/jackets.

What sizes are available?

Sizes Newborn through 4T clothing are available as well as shoes through toddler size 10.

How do I borrow clothing?

The clothing closet is stored in labeled totes in the loft of the hall. Anyone can access them whenever they wish. It is easiest to select the tote you need and sort through it on the platform by the loft rather than bringing the entire tote down to the floor. Please do not remove any totes from the hall. There are occasional opportunities during the year when all the totes will be pulled out of the loft and easily accessible. These are not usually planned, but announcements will be made when it happens. If you have questions, please contact Brooke Austin at (517)677-3206.

How do I return or donate clothes?

Returned clothing can be added directly into the appropriate tote. When returning clothes, they should be freshly washed and completely dry to avoid mildew developing in storage. Please do not return heavily damaged/stained items nor dirty clothes. Donations need to be restricted to sizes NB to 4T. If a tote is overflowing, please notify Brooke Austin at (517)677-3206.

How is it organized?

Clothing is organized into totes by size: NB, 0-3mo, 3mo, 3-6mo, and so on. Totes are not separated by gender, however at size 12mo they are split into separate warm weather and cool weather totes, which are labeled accordingly. Clothing within a tote is not organized in any way, nor is it separated by gender. Boy/girl clothing and tops/bottoms are mixed throughout individual totes. There are separate labeled totes for blankets/bibs, shoes, coats, and cloth diapers.

Is there anything I shouldn't donate?

Please do not donate sizes over 4T. There are also items that are rarely borrowed, and so at this time donations cannot be accepted. These include: NB hats, blankets, bibs, girl's dress tights (not leggings), and underwear. The clothing closet does not contain maternity clothing, nor other non-clothing baby items. Items that you wish to share with other families, but are not accepted by the clothing closet, can be posted to slack or brought to church and placed in the "Free" bin.

What happens to things that don't fit in the clothing closet?

Culled items or items that are not accepted are donated to the Albion and Marshall free stores if they are accepting donations. Otherwise, they are taken to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

A bunch of these baby items have tons of yellow stains! Should I throw them away?

No! Breast milk stains from milk, spit up, or blow-outs frequently show up in storage even if the clothes looked perfectly clean before they were put in. These stains often disappear either by sunning the clothes or washing them in OxiClean. The same is true of cloth diapers. Many infant clothes stored in the clothing closet will develop these yellow stains, but they do not need to be discarded.

Who do I go to with questions?

The clothing closet is monitored by Brooke Austin, who can be contacted at (517)677-3206. There is also a clothing closet specific channel on the Women's Slack with infrequent announcements, so feel free to join that. Volunteers are occasionally needed to cull overflowing bins, sort unsorted donations into appropriate bins, and move the bins in and out of the loft. If you'd like to be contacted when help is needed, let Brooke know.