

## **What is the USD383 Families in Transition (FIT) Closet and Clothing Exchange?**

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act requires public schools to ensure all homeless children have the basic needs for school attendance and participation in class, but none are funded to do so. The FIT Closet and Clothing Exchange is USD383's means of providing many of these necessary essentials (e.g. school supplies, shoes, clothing, coats, toiletries, hygiene products, laundry detergent as well as emergency food) so children can attend class and integrate successfully. Last year, USD383 served over 300 homeless children by the end of the school year.

This essential service is a 100% community supported project. The College Avenue Methodist Church donates the building where the FIT Closet is located. And, it is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers. Hundreds of individuals, churches and businesses of Manhattan donate virtually all of the clothing and other essential supplies.

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

Because of increasing community need and Manhattan's continuing generosity, the FIT Closet has also opened its doors to assist not just homeless students and their families but also students and families struggling with daily living expenses; migrant students and their families; students in Foster Care and children with a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Recently, the FIT Closet has also developed a relationship with the Riley County Police Department and Juvenile Justice program to provide 24/7 emergency essentials to children whose parent or guardian has been incarcerated.

**The FIT Closet is located at 1609 College Avenue in the "White House" behind the College Ave. United Methodist Church** (map attached). It is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 am until noon and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 pm until 5:30 pm.

You can email Barb Hartnett (FIT Closet Coordinator) at [fitcloset383@gmail.com](mailto:fitcloset383@gmail.com) to make arrangements for dropping off donations, volunteering, or if you have questions.

Thank you so much for your interest and your help.