**FOSTER CARE CLOSET**

 The Foster Care Closet of Nebraska is an ongoing service dedicated to helping youth in the foster care system by meeting their needs.

**THE PROBLEM**

 Every day in the United States, an abused, neglected or abandoned youth is introduced into foster care. Almost all these youth will enter the foster care system with only the clothing they are wearing, and many times that clothing is not in an acceptable condition.

 Many times, a clothing voucher is offered to foster parents, however, vouchers lack accountability, are often only good at a single store and many foster children are uncomfortable shopping in public. This leaves foster children lacking their basic clothing necessities.

**THE SOLUTION**

1. Give each foster child the ability to shop for 5 new outfits.
2. Develop strong relationships with national retailers to secure new clothing donations.
3. Provide a private setting for ‘shopping’ and trying on new outfits.
4. Establish a close relationship with the state to provide accountability and proper tracking of donations.