

## **Clothing Options:**

### **Get free clothes, supplies and help from free clothing closets.**

Low income families can find free clothes, including shoes, winter jackets, school supplies, work uniforms, and more from clothing closets. These charities operate in most major cities and towns. While the exact types of goods or financial assistance provided by each center will vary greatly, in general a clothing bank or closet is a low cost or free store where qualified customers can both browse and shop for needed items.

Centers will try to provide basic needs free of charge to those who qualify. They often assist children, the elderly, babies, single moms and the working poor. However, some locations may have minimal fees or costs that are due. Examples of what may be distributed include high quality clothing, accessories, shoes, bedding, linens, work attire, winter attire, boots, personal supplies, and even books. Some may pass out gift certificates as well for more specific clothes that also help a low-income family pay for the stuff they need. Many locations, which are listed below, often work closely with local thrift stores.

The organizations generally rely heavily on donations and contribution from the community as these are not government run organizations. Many of the free clothing banks also rely on volunteers to help staff the centers. There is usually a range of volunteer opportunities available for groups and individuals in your local Clothes Closet. Also, the vast majority of the programs are supported by the contributions received daily from the local communities.

Only high-quality items are offered for resale to the general public. Clothing closets usually serve as a perfect option for low income and struggling individuals, or even the unemployed. The charities provide consumers with ample opportunities to bargain shop.

The clothing banks tend to serve as an outreach program and offer household items and clothing to residents of the community. Items will usually be free of charge to those who have an immediate need or who are faced with an emergency. Some of the clients have needs that resulted from the loss of a home from a disaster (such as a fire) or financial challenges from the loss of income, such as unemployment. Some cities also have centers that provide work clothing to people looking for a job or holiday and Christmas assistance.

Free clothing closets can also be run by national charity or non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, or St. Vincent de Paul. These charitable organizations often combine the location with a low-cost thrift store.

### **Types of clothes offered from a center**

What is available to the general public and clients will change, often daily. As everything offered will depend on donations and current demand. Some examples of what can be provided are below.

- Seasonal clothing including winter attire such as coats, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants.
- School supplies may be offered such as new backpacks, calculators, uniforms, and notebooks.
- New and pregnant mothers may be able to get help too, including diapers, formula, cereals, baby wipes, maternity clothing and related items.
- Other basic goods such as new underwear and socks, shoes, belts, jackets, and more.
- Work items, such as professional attire including suits, dresses, and pants.
- A number of items are offered for children, including free baby clothes, shoes, and other needed items.

**Coats for Kids** is available in many cold weather states, include the northeast and Midwest. Non-profit clothing centers as well as partner organizations collect goods from the community. The Salvation Army and Operation Warm are major participants.

They then provide the warm coats, gloves, hats and other items to children and students, free of charge as part of Coats for Kids. These individuals tend to be most at risk from the cold winter weather and need the coats. Many even use them just to stay warm and help them get to school. The locations have pressing needs for donations of men's, children's and women's winter coats in sizes large and small. Read more on free winter clothes.

While not as common, some clothing centers will also have household goods. This can include small furniture items, household items such as curtains and dishes, cleaning items, small appliances, beds, and cribs for newborns. However, those particular items tend to be sold more at thrift stores to the general public and consumers will need to pay a minimal price for them. If you have an emergency or were impacted by a disaster such as a fire, then some people may qualify for free furniture.

The sick, disabled, senior citizens and their caregivers can borrow basic medical equipment from a loan closet. They are located at both charities as well as churches. There are items passed out, often at no cost, to the low-income family. While the client needs to eventually return the equipment, the centers can help fill a certain need. Locate a free medical loan closet.

There are also charities that offer low income families baby stuff. There may be an age cut-off in place, but struggling parents or single mothers may get help with clothing as well as any other needs they may have. There may also be items given for expectant moms. Maternity clothes, diapers, furniture, and more is provided. Find free baby stuff.

## **Pittsburgh area free clothing closets, school supplies and furniture programs.**

Families across Allegheny County and Pittsburgh Pennsylvania can turn to clothing closets and thrift stores for free items such as clothes, furniture, household goods, back to school or baby supplies and more. The lowest income families can generally receive some or most of what they need for free using vouchers or gift certificates. On the other hand the thrift stores will sell goods, including furniture and electronics, to the general public at reduced prices.

Seasonal programs and resources are available as well. This can include items like free school supplies, Christmas assistance, gift baskets and even special items (diapers and cribs) for new mothers. The exact availability of items and resources by clothing center vary widely and rely heavily on donations from the general public. There is always a high demand for assistance as well, so it is recommended to call in advance for hours or if you need a specific item.

As indicated, the thrift stores, free furniture banks and clothing closets in Pittsburgh as well as the county do operate mainly on donations. If you can contribute any excess clothes or household goods please do so as the need for help is great. Or if you are low income, find programs for free stuff.

## **Lifeline of Southwest Pennsylvania**

239 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222  
Telephone - (412) 562-0543

The center has a so called Mother's room. This will contain free maternity clothes to help women during their pregnancy. The room will have other baby supplies, diapers, and clothes for infants and children up to size 3.

## **Suited for Work WorkWear**

332 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15222  
Phone - (412) 281-4220

For people going on an interview or starting a new job, the center will have clothing, suits, and professional work attire. Also get uniforms and assistance including personal hygiene and classes on basic workplace expectations. All services are available at no cost.

## **Jeremiah's Closet**

735 Pittsburgh Street  
Springdale, Pennsylvania, 15144  
(724) 274-5554

Free general clothing items are given to low income families or Allegheny County families who are in a crisis. There may be books, baby supplies, back to school uniforms or supplies, bookbags, and more.

## **Project Bundle-Up at the Chartiers Service Center**

225 West Main Street  
Carnegie, PA, 15106  
Call the clothing closet at (412) 276-4757

Children from low income families can receive free winter outerwear items, coats, boots, and more. Items are offered for seniors too.

## **Pittsburgh Temple Service Center - Project Bundle-Up**

Address: 1060 McNeilly Road is Pittsburgh, PA, 15226, phone (412) 207-2127  
Or stop by the center at 104 East 9th Street, Homestead, PA, 15120, telephone (412) 461-2460.

## **House at Bethany**

748 Warrington Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15210  
(412) 586-5621

The location is a faith-based mission and outreach center offering shoes, clothing, house wares and other items at a low price. Some other furniture items, like a couch, may be given out too.

## **TryLife Center**

1155 Wildlife Lodge Road  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
(724) 339-9399

Focus is on young mothers and babies/children, including counseling and some medical services

## **Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Youth Training Program**

610 Wood Street

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222

Main number (412) 227-5021

Children are the focus. Single moms can get free clothes or information on local housing programs. They also offer mortgage help, free school supplies for kids including those in high school and college, and support for minorities among others. A focus is around employment and education.

## **Dress for Success Pittsburgh**

332 Fifth Ave

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222

(412) 201-4204

The non-profit provides business and work clothing to women. In addition, staff run support groups for women seeking employment and those who just started a job. The unemployed can get advice, support, and information on employment opportunities in Allegheny County.

## **New Vision Community Church - Kid's Closet**

1620 Randolph Lane

Verona, PA, 15147

Dial (412) 241-6160

The charity has shoes, sneakers, clothes, hats, and more. During the summer and fall some back to school supplies for kindergarten to high school age students may be offered.

## **Monroeville Community Church**

2456 Tilbrook Road, Monroeville, PA, 15146

Call (412) 372-1333 for hours.

## **Sonshine Community Ministries**

Address: 908 Evans Avenue

McKeesport, Pennsylvania, 15132

(412) 672-6711

Programs range from a furniture bank to food pantry and clothing closet.

## **Focus on Renewal Sto-Rox Neighborhood Corporation Sarah's Second Chance Thrift Store**

712 Broadway Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA, 15136

(412) 458-3566

The thrift store sells gently used items to the public, including furniture, household goods, appliances, clothing, and more. May also have school supplies such as backpacks.

## **Network of Hope Sharpsburg**

Main address - Sharpsburg Family Worship Center

Pittsburgh, PA, 15215

(412) 799-0701

A focus is on referrals and information to the needy.

## **Allegheny County Valley Association of Churches, Inc. (AVAC)**

1913 Freeport Road  
Natrona Heights, PA, 15065  
(724) 226-0606

In addition to clothing has gasoline assistance, furniture, clothing, emergency food vouchers, travel assistance, help with rent, utilities and prescriptions.

## **NorthShore Community Alliance Carol's Closet**

Location is 1439 N. Franklin Street  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15233  
Telephone - (412) 322-7400

Clothing, shoes, toys, and free Christmas assistance is offered. There may be birthday toys too.

## **Birthright of Pittsburgh, Inc.**

160 North Craig Street, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15213-2717  
(412) 621-1988

The charity helps new moms, including single mothers. Free diapers, some baby furniture, maternity clothes, wipes, and more may be given for free.

## **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh**

212 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222  
Call (412) 456-6999

The program offered is known as Team HOPE Safety Net & Stability Services. A number of social services and counseling is offered, including credit, emergency financial aid, holiday gifts and more.

## **Off the Floor Pittsburgh**

Address is 901 Allegheny Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
Contact - [info@offthefloorpgh.org](mailto:info@offthefloorpgh.org)

This is the Allegheny County free furniture bank. They help the working poor and low income. The non-profit has beds, tables, lamps, lights, chairs, and many other gently used goods. They can help a family set up a new home or apartment to live in. Donations are needed too.

## **Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc.**

141 North Fremont Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15202  
(412) 766-4934

The center offers free distribution of baby clothing and items including bassinets, cribs, car seats, infant carriers, bath tubs, diapers, and even baby formula. Free pregnancy testing is available on site as well as maternity clothing.

## **Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania**

They have several centers around the region including in Allegheny County. Offers household goods, clothing, furniture, a limited amount of baby furniture, small appliances, and winter attire.

2866 Banksville Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, zip code is 15216

Address - 3820 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, 15146, (412) 856-9840

509 East Ohio Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212, (412) 322-5666

7221 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237, phone (412) 635-9612

2780 Saw Mill Run Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15227, (412) 885-5151

## **National Council of Jewish Women - Thriftique**

7400 1/2 Church Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15218

Dial (412) 271-0544 for hours.

## **Penn Hills Service Association**

2519 Universal Road

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15235

(412) 798-9449

**Salvation Army of Allegheny County** offers several social services to the needy and low income. Multiple locations are in the county and they offer everything from clothing to free Christmas assistance from resources such as Angel Tree.

During the summer and fall, parents can apply for a free school supply event. This gives out shoes, notebooks, tablets, bookbags, and other items to students.

Some emergency financial assistance for bills, rent, and other basic needs are offered too. Seniors may get items delivered to their home. This is in addition to a clothing assistance program. Locations are below or find more details on Salvation Army assistance programs in Pittsburgh.

- 6017 Broad St., Pittsburgh, PA, 15206, (412) 362-0891
- 300 Holland Avenue, Braddock, Pennsylvania, 15104, call telephone number is (412) 271-2407
- Homewood Brushton Worship and Service Center, 8020 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15208, dial (412) 242-1434
- McKeesport Worship and Service Center is on 821 Walnut Street. (412) 673-6627
- 1060 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15226, (412) 207-2127
- 1821 Broadhead Fording Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15205, main number is (412) 921-9780
- Salvation Army center address - 3423 Library Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15234, call (412) 882-8519
- 917 Brackenridge Avenue, Brackenridge, PA 15014, 724-224-6310

## **Pittsburgh St. Vincent de Paul Society**

- Coraopolis Thrift Store, 415 Chess Street & Route 51 North, Coraopolis, PA, 15108, (412) 264-2378
- Monroeville Thrift Store, 1730 Golden Mile Highway Route 286, Pittsburgh, PA, 15146, call (724) 733-8585
- Ritzland Plaza, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15235, (412) 247-4157

Items range from beds to coffee tables, winter attire, boots, lamps, and so much more.