

Jose's Closet – Member Welcome Packet

We are pleased to welcome you to Jose's Closet!

We are proud to support foster, adoptive, and kinship families in Arizona by providing items to your family. We recognize the importance - and challenge - of opening your home to children who did not begin their lives with you. Thank you for sharing your home and love with those children.

Our resource center in Apache Junction offers gently used clothing, shoes, toys & games, books, sports equipment, baby gear/equipment, and more! We operate a modest food bank, and partner with the Diaper Bank of Central Arizona to provide diapering supplies to our members.



We are currently offering contactless service to all members. We will provide an online form that members will use to request items for their family. Diaper requests are handled separately, also with an online form. Our staff will pull items for your family, based on your request, and contact you to let you know when they are available for pickup.

Throughout the year, we offer several special giveaway events to those with a Family Membership, including:

- Back-to-School Giveaway
 - (school supplies, backpacks)
- Spring Giveaway
 - (small items that are fun for Easter baskets and/or outdoor play)
- Holiday Giveaway
 - (new toy / gift, new clothing, quilt / bedding, new socks & undies, stocking stuffers)
- Bike Giveaway (when items are available)
 - (bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and helmets, as available)

Our History

Jose's Closet was founded by Wendy Esquibel, in loving memory of her foster son, Jose. As a long-time foster parent, she recognized the challenge of having a child arrive with nothing to wear. She began saving clothes in multiple sizes, sharing with foster friends as needed.

Her collection quickly outgrew her spare closet, then her garage. Jose's Closet started operating as a charity from a storage facility, and now occupies space in a former elementary school, with over 10 classrooms full of inventory!

Jose's Closet was founded in loving memory of Jose, pictured center, who was born on July 22, 1997 and became an angel on November 4, 2007.



Jose's Closet Membership Levels



Basic Membership

- Includes foster children only
- No cost to household
- DCS or other official paperwork required
- Household information form required

Family Membership

- Includes all children in household, up to age 21
- \$50 donation requested annually
- 5 volunteer hours annually per household**
- DCS or other official paperwork required
- Household information form required

----- Receive at no cost -----

- 3 outfits, 1 pair of shoes, 1 sleepwear per foster child
 - Available 2 times per year per foster child
 - Items will be preselected, ready for pickup
- 6 outfits, 2 pairs of shoes, plus sleepwear, seasonal items, and more per every child in household
 - Available monthly January - November
 - Members can shop for their own items**
 - *Pandemic Service: Members request items, which are provided via contactless pickup*
- Food Boxes available monthly
- Diapers available monthly
- Formula & Infant Care items available monthly
- Holiday Giveaways
- Special Event Giveaways
- Back-to-School Giveaways
- Toys / Books / Games / Sports Items available
- Baby Gear & Equipment available
- Facebook Members Only Group access



Distribution of all items is dependent on current available inventory. We cannot guarantee that items will be available in every size at any given time. Some items are limited to a "per child" or "per family" number.

** - Some options are not available in their normal ways during our pandemic operations. During pandemic operations, all items are pre-selected for members, and we are not requesting volunteer time from our members.

Commented [S1]: The formatting on this seems off to me, but I don't have time to mess with the spacing....

What to Expect

At Jose's Closet, we have a little bit of everything. From baby bottles to shin guards, we will offer it all. We may even have bed rails, strollers, or karate uniforms available. Because we rely on community donations, we never know what will be available in the resource center at any given time. It never hurts to ask if you're looking for something in particular. Please note, we cannot honor requests for specific brands.

We fill member requests from January through November. In December, we put member requests on hold (processing only new placements), to focus on our Holiday Giveaway. Don't worry – we'll remind you in November to make sure to get those winter clothing requests placed.

Communication

We send emails as our main way of communicating with our member families. Weekly updates are sent to the email address that you provide on your Membership Information Form. Those updates will have links to the online request forms for clothing, diapers, food boxes, baby items, and all that we offer at Jose's Closet. Emails are sent mainly from info@josescloset.org – please save that in your contacts to be sure you see our messages.

We will not share your personal information with outside organizations. Any information we share with outside organizations is not personal information, but population statistics. We are asked to collect demographic data by the state of Arizona for our QFCO certification. Grants that we apply for may ask for various data, which is why we request it from you. We protect your personal information and will not release any private information to outside parties. ***If you don't see an email from us for more than 2 weeks, please get in touch to confirm your email address is correct on our mailing list!***

Requesting Items

When making requests for your family, we ask for some information to help our staff find things your kids will enjoy. Some general guidance is very helpful, but overly-specific requests are difficult to fill. We will provide your family with 6 outfits per child, as long as we have their size in stock. We can't guarantee all the items will fit the style/preferences indicated, but we do our best.

Don't: Girl, 7, only wears hot pink skirts with lace or ruffles

Do: Girl, 7, loves unicorns, mermaids, & pink - prefers skirts to pants

Don't: Boy, 15, only wants low-top Vans, Abercrombie t-shirts

Do: Boy, 15, likes sports-style clothing / workout gear / dry-fit tops

Don't: Girl, 17, wants Lululemon leggings and Brandy Melville tops

Do: Girl, 17, likes leggings and baggy button-up tops, canvas sneakers

Don't: Boy 4, only wants Paw Patrol, needs Children's Place adjustable waist pants

Do: Boy, 4, loves character shirts (Paw Patrol), favorite colors blue & green

What if the items aren't right for us?

We do our best to find things that will work for your family, but understand that everything won't work, especially when filling requests remotely. We don't have the ability to exchange items, but you are always welcome to bring back anything that doesn't work, for whatever reason. (fit, style, etc.) You can note on your next request that you will be returning an item, and we can add an extra one to your order.

Please don't ask our staff to "see if you have ____, but in ___ size/color" when you pick up your items. We have a small staff and are working hard during this pandemic to process incoming donations and to pull member requests. While we would love to, we simply do not have time to look for items on a same-day basis.

Item Condition

Our inventory is donated to us by the community. We screen & sort each item, keeping those that are in gently used condition. Some items are in nearly-new condition, while others are well-loved, but with life still in them.

Please know that ALL equipment, such as strollers, high chairs, booster seats, ride-on toys, etc. are given in as-is condition. We do not safety-test donated items. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check items for safe condition and to use them in the manner for which they are intended. By accepting items from Jose's Closet, you accept liability for the items and use of them. We are happy to be able to pass along any items that may be useful to our member families. Please exercise reasonable caution when using them.

Food Bank

We partner with area food banks to offer monthly food boxes to our Family Membership clients, at no charge. The items in the boxes will vary from month to month, as well as box to box. Simply answer yes or no on your monthly request to let us know to have a food box ready for you. When you arrive, feel free to take a quick look at your box. We will usually have a "No Thanks" box, where you can put back items that your family won't use. Additionally, we may have items that are "Expiring Soon" or "Past Due Date". These items are available for taking in addition to your food box but are too close/past expiration for us to distribute. You can take as many of these items as you wish – we don't want to throw them away.

Infant formula and baby food are offered to our clients at no charge whenever they are in stock. Infant formula is available, with a limit per family. Baby food is offered whenever in stock.

Diaper Supplies

Jose's Closet partners with the Diaper Bank of Central Arizona to offer diapers and wipes to all the children covered by a Family Membership. The Diaper Bank requires certain statistics for each individual using the diapers, so we collect that information with each request. None of the information provided to the Diaper Bank is identifiable; it is gathered for statistical purposes. (Ex – what percentage of diaper users are disabled?)

Upgrading Your Membership

Families who request Basic Membership service are welcome to upgrade to the Family Membership at any time. Simply contact us at info@josescloset.org or visit www.josescloset.org/join and fill out the Family Membership application. We ask for a \$50 donation for the annual membership, which will cover all the children in your home and come with many additional benefits.

Supporting Jose's Closet

We are a Qualified Foster Care Charitable Organization, which means that we are eligible for the QFCO Tax Credit here in Arizona. You can claim a **dollar-for-dollar tax credit** for your donation to Jose's Closet. You may claim up to \$500 as an individual or \$1,000 if married, filing jointly. This tax credit can be combined with other types of tax credits. Please tell your friends about Jose's Closet – member testimonials are excellent advertising, and every dollar we earn means more support that we can offer to you!

DIRECTIONS

Our resource center is in Apache Junction, on the northwest corner of Ironwood Drive & Broadway Road. **Please follow the directions below, as GPS will bring you to the front of the complex, rather than our front door & parking area.**

The address is 550 S Ironwood Drive, Apache Junction, AZ 85120.

From the Phoenix metro area:

- Take Hwy 60 to Exit 195 onto Ironwood Drive.
- Turn left (north) onto Ironwood and proceed 1.6 miles.
- Turn left (west) onto W Broadway Ave and enter the third driveway on the right.
- Jose's Closet is located on the left side of the parking lot, behind the green fence. We face south towards Broadway Ave.



Contact Us

Email address: info@josescloset.org
Website: www.josescloset.org
Phone: 480-309-1743
Mailing Address: PO Box 1641, Queen Creek, AZ 85142
Street Address: 550 S Ironwood Dr, Apache Junction, AZ 85120
Wendy Esquibel Founder & Director 480-313-8496
Jenn Blaes Administrative Manager 251-622-8220

Please take a moment to save the address, phone number, and email address in your phone. (Saving Wendy and Jenn's numbers is a great idea too!)

We prefer communication via email – please limit phone calls / texts to urgent matters only.

