



Clothing Drive Tips

ABOUT US

Clothes Cabin, operated by One Small Step, Inc., provides free clothing, shoes, and household linens to low- and no- income individuals and families. Clothes Cabin also provides steel-toed work boots to men who are required to have them for employment and a laundry service for our homeless clients. There is no other local resource for these free services. Each year, we help nearly 2,000 families with over 80,000 articles of clothing and linens, almost all donated by individuals. Clothes Cabin thanks you sincerely for your generous support.

HOW TO CONDUCT A CLOTHING DRIVE

1. Decide on dates and locations.
 - One or two weeks are generally enough time for a clothing drive. If you have multiple locations, appoint someone at each site to manage the donations. Select high-traffic areas where the boxes and signage will be noticeable and convenient. Be sure to consider safety and security issues when choosing your locations.
2. Drives that ask for specific kinds of donations yield better results than a general “clothing drive”.
 - Decide on a specific type of clothing or linens to collect. We nearly always need children’s clothing, athletic shoes, **new** socks and underwear, bras, purses, towels, sheets, hygiene products, and men’s jeans, but you can contact us to learn what other items we currently need.
 - Women’s clothing is generally overflowing at Clothes Cabin. Focusing on our high needs categories helps us in the best possible way. Please pick one of the shortage areas listed and accept only those items. We would much rather have a small amount of highly needed items than a larger donation of items we cannot use.
3. Prepare boxes and posters for your drive.
 - Lined trash bins or large boxes work best for collecting clothes, shoes, and linens. Create a poster explaining the drive and emphasize the standards for clothing (**should be clean and without holes, stains, missing parts, or excessive wear**).
4. Promote your clothing drive to prospective participants (employees, customers, members, etc.) via print, email, and social media.
5. At the end of your drive, please sort through the items to remove anything that is dirty or has holes, stains, missing parts, or excessive wear. Those items can be dropped in any clothes-recycling dumpster you see in parking lots. Fold the remaining clothes neatly and place in standard kitchen trash bags. Tie, don’t knot, the strings so that we can reuse the bags!
6. Photograph, celebrate, and publicize your success. Reward participants for their work. Please share photos with us so that we can celebrate you and your work too!
7. Call or email us when it is time to deliver the donations to Clothes Cabin, this gives us a heads up on what is coming so we can be sure to be ready for the donation! If our regular hours (Monday through Thursday 10am-2pm) are not convenient, we can schedule a time for someone to be there to receive your donation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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One Small Step, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Tax ID 26-2024218