

# The Resource

May 2016 Issue No. 4



## Letter From Our President

We have been extremely busy here at Mom's Closet for the first part of the year. Every day brings something exciting for our staff! We are blessed to be able to serve single moms and their families. We get the privilege of walking along side our clients as they go through school and create a better way of life. It is also thrilling to help other single moms be able to make the choice to go back to school! Just encouraging them to know they can do it! We are also blessed to be able to create avenues for you to partner with us! We love meeting each of you and serving alongside you.

One of the special things we were able to do this year was supply our families with Easter Baskets. We made an ask, and in no time we had the funds to be able to make this happen for the moms. They were thrilled! The next thing we worked on was Spring Cleaning Baskets! Again, we made the ask, and within a day, we had 4 baskets at our office. We are so blessed by our supporters.

One thing that Sheila and I have been working on is raising \$100,000 over and above our budget. We are in need of hiring a staff person with a specific skill set. Also we have been working with the Tapp school all year. We are in a position when these young moms graduate to be able to Bridge them into our Life Plan Program. But we need the additional funds to make these things happen. We are so thankful for our supporters. We have already received one donation of \$25,000 towards the \$100,000. Only \$75,000 more to go! If you would like to donate toward this cause for us, you can send a check, you can go online at [www.momsclosetcenter.org/donations](http://www.momsclosetcenter.org/donations), and put in the comments: "OUR BIG CHALLENGE". We'll keep you posted on Facebook and through our website on how we are doing. Again, thanks in advance for your continued support of Mom's Closet.

Make sure you read all of the articles in our Newsletter for additional stories. And, as always, if you are looking for other ways to serve, donate, information on events, you will find them in this newsletter. Also, we want to hear your stories. Feel free to send them to us at [info@momsclosetcenter.org](mailto:info@momsclosetcenter.org). We will share them throughout the year to help encourage others!

Blessings,

Laura Wingfield  
President

**Welcome to the Program**  
**Gabrielle Benfield, Program Coordinator**

Wow, where has the time gone? Seems like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and the New Year. It's hard to believe it's already May. Recently, Mom's Closet has welcomed two new moms to the Life Plan Program. We are so blessed by these amazing young women and grateful God has brought them to Mom's Closet. Please welcome Whitney who is the mom of three beautiful children, one boy and two girls. She works part-time, attends Simmons Bible College and is working on a bachelor's degree in Business. Please also join us in welcoming Jaynie, mother to one precious little girl. Jaynie works full-time as a nanny and attends Sullivan University, where she is working towards a Business degree. We look forward to walking with Jaynie and Whitney through their journeys of higher education!

**Important Dates**

TAPP School Graduation  
May 20th

Memorial Day  
Office Closed

Back to School Shoe Shopping  
July 30th

Global Leadership Summit NECC  
Office Closed Aug 11th & 12th

Orientation/Boot Camp Starts  
August 3rd 11am - 1pm

Boot Camp Session 1  
August 10th

Boot Camp Session 2  
August 17th

Boot Camp Session 3  
August 24th

Boot Camp Session 4  
August 31st



**Back to School**  
**Gabrielle Benfield**

It will be time for the children to go back to school before we know it. We are ramping up for our Back to School Program to benefit our moms and their children. The Back to School Program provides three school uniforms or outfits, all school supplies, a backpack, shoes, and a pack of socks for all of our mom's school-aged children. Anyone who has children knows how important it is to send them to school with the tools to succeed, and how much of an expense this can be to a budget. Our Back to School Program is designed to ease this financial burden for our moms. If you are interested in learning how you can help with this program please call Gabrielle Benfield at 502-245-9899.

## **Thank You Program Supporters**

### **Gabrielle Benfield**

Many thanks are in order! Thank you to Marilynn M. and her bible study group which provided Valentines gifts for our moms. The moms were all very grateful for the thoughtful gifts of beautiful bracelets and gift cards! Thanks for thinking of our moms and making their Valentine's Day so special. Also, thanks to our donors who sponsored the Easter Baskets for our moms' children. This is just another generous way our donors show support for Mom's Closet and our clients! We appreciate their support! We could not do it without you! Our supporters are truly THE BEST!



## **We Have The Best Volunteers**

### **Cassie Wingfield, Office Coordinator**

As always we want to thank all of our volunteers. In February and March we had 60 people volunteer a total of 227.75 hours to MCRC. A special thanks to our committees and board members for all of their support. Several board members have been coming in the office regularly to help out the staff, even helping us with budget consulting for our clients. We are so blessed to have such great support.

Mom's Closet keeps a small staff, this is beneficial in utilizing more of our resources for our clients and less on salaries. However, in order to keep moving forward, we need more people. That's where our volunteers really help. We need to build strong relationships with our supporters to produce reliable and capable volunteers. Every bit of help is always appreciated and needed it, but when we have people volunteering on a regular basis they can take ownership and pride in their own projects.

I want to take a moment to brag on Fay, a regular volunteer at Mom's Closet. She has been coming in twice a week to help out in the pantry, tracking inventory, and even some light data entry. She has become like part of our family here at the center. She even donated a bedroom suite to a client of ours who needed one. We realize not everyone has the gift of time to give. Again, we appreciate every bit of help we get. Anything from monthly encouragement cards, our Life Bridge shopper, our partners who teach at boot camps, our board members who give their time and resources, and our donors who take time to shop for our pantry. Thanks to everyone for being part of the team.

If you would like to become more involved, please call our office or send an email to [info@momsclosetcenter.org](mailto:info@momsclosetcenter.org). I will gladly meet with you to discuss how we can utilize your gifts so you can serve while doing something you love. If you want to help, but simply don't have the time, check out our Facebook page. We post our pantry needs list every Friday. It is a list of regular items we keep in the food pantry that we are running low on. We also post special needs as they come. For instance, we shared through Facebook when we were in need of sponsorships for Easter baskets and spring cleaning kits. Fay came to us by simply dropping off donations for the food pantry. Another supporter saw our needs list and when she brought groceries we found out she was a "couponer". We are trying to set it up where she can teach a couponing class to our clients. There are all kinds of ways you can serve. Keep an eye out for special opportunities that speak to you.



## **Casablanca Nights**

### **Irene Day, Marketing Coordinator**

On Saturday, April 30th, Mom's Closet had our annual opening night event at Churchill Downs. The theme was "Casablanca Nights" and guests were transported to Morocco for the evening. The décor was done by co-event sponsor Fleur de Lis Events and Design. Our silver level sponsor was CI Agent Solutions, we are eternally grateful for their continued support.

The event couldn't have been more successful. The silent and live auction were the main money earners for the night. Kevin Harned of WAVE3 news was the auctioneer for the live auction. Guests bid on five items that included a date night package, signed racing memorabilia, and a once in a lifetime Derby experience. The derby experience included a tour of the backside with legendary jockey Pat Day. The winner of the item was brought on a tour of the backside on Monday before Derby where they met Derby contender Brody's Cause and his trainer Dale Romans. On Derby day they will walk with Brody's Cause from the barns to the paddock where they will watch him, and the other derby horses, saddle up for the 142nd Kentucky Derby.

Everyone at Mom's Closet was blown away by the support that guest showed to our cause on Saturday night. We raised just over \$68,000.00 for our programs. The generosity shown by everyone in attendance truly touched out hearts. We wish to thank everyone who helped and attended the event. This year was a great success, and we can't wait to see what next year's event will bring. If you wish to be added to the guest list for next year, please contact Irene Day at [irene@momsclosetcenter.org](mailto:irene@momsclosetcenter.org).

Additional photos from the event can be found on Facebook, under Pixel Dust photography.



## Opening Night 2016



## **Bootcamp and Orientation**

### **Cassie Wingfield, Office Coordinator**

Are you a single mom or do you know a single mom who could benefit from our services? In order to qualify for our Life Plans there are 3 major requirements:

1. Must be a single mom
2. Must be employed (working at least 20 hours a week)
3. Must be attending an institution of higher education (at least half time)

Starting school or finding a job can be confusing or difficult. Our boot camp is designed to give single mothers the tools to become employed and to enroll themselves in school sometimes at little to no cost to them.

We will start with an Orientation on Wednesday, August 3rd at 11am -1pm. This will be a short presentation and tour of the center, explaining what we do and our offerings. We will answer any questions or concerns.

Orientation is followed by “Boot Camp”.



## **Food Pantry Needs**

### **Cassie Wingfield**

Our food pantry is one of the biggest resources we have in house to help single mothers in need. Any single mom can access the food pantry four times in a year. Our life plan moms can use the food pantry whenever they need to. This is why it is important to keep it well stocked.

The pantry is completely community funded. If you would like to help us stock the pantry, here is a list of the things we need the most right now.

- Jelly
- Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper
- Condiments/Salad dressings
- Juice
- Cleaning Supplies/products (ANY)

We also post our needs lists on Facebook every Friday.



### **A Note From Our Founder Sheila Day, Founder & CEO**

As Moms' Closet continues to grow, we become more focused on fundraising. For the first time we held a Derby Hat and Fascinator event at Churchill Downs. The event offered a lot of networking opportunities for Mom's Closet as well as raised funds for our programs. We will have the event next year, so please be on the lookout for it.

I wanted to thank a moment to thank our supporters and friends for making this year's opening night event the most successful one thus far. It warms my heart to know that there are people out there that love Mom's Closet as much as I do.

I also ask that you keep me in your prayers as I work to gather corporate monetary support in the coming months. This is necessary to keep the center moving forward.

Blessings,

Sheila Day  
Founder & CEO