

# **SV MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CARING CLOSET**

## **Students Helping Students**

Every child should have access to the basic needs of life so that they can focus on their education. At Steel Valley Middle School and High School, 100% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch. This means that a majority of our student body struggles to overcome many of the things taken for granted by others such as access to clothes, school supplies, personal hygiene products, and many other simple necessities. As a community, if we can assist those who are struggling to keep their focus on education, we will not only be improving the individual lives we touch, we will also be improving our overall community.

## **How It Works**

Any student in need because of financial difficulties is eligible to use the services of the Caring Closet. Students need to see Nurse Thomas to have access to the supplies. One of our school teachers, guidance counselors, or an administrator will confidentially recommend the student to the Caring Closet and allow him or her to choose any items he or she may need. Students may also visit the Caring Closet on their own terms.

The Caring Closet is a private, safe environment. The Closet is kept neat and organized. Student use of the Closet is confidential so that students will not feel they “stand out” because they have been to the Caring Closet. We want the people who use the Caring Closet to feel good.

## **How You Can Help**

Other student organizations are welcome to assist with Caring Closet drives and tasks. (Examples of suggested drives: hat and mitten tree, new underwear and sock collection, or personal hygiene collection). Students or student groups interested in getting involved should contact Ryan Dunmire ([rdunmirekuftic@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:rdunmirekuftic@steelvalleysd.org)). Donations are gladly accepted. Contact Steel Valley High School office, Nurse Thomas, Mrs. Geyer, or Ms. Dunmire at 412-464-3600 with any questions you may have about donating, or drop off your donations in the main office or in the nurse’s office.

## **Mission Statement**

Steel Valley High School and Middle School’s Caring Closet mission is to serve students who are financially struggling and in need of a little extra help with obtaining daily necessities; those students who are striving to do well academically, but need an extra boost to ensure their focus can be on their education and not on meeting their basic needs. Our belief is that as a student body, if we can assist those who are struggling to keep their focus on education, we will not only be improving

the individual lives we touch, we will also be improving our overall community as these students become contributing members of society.

If you have donations of school supplies, hygiene products, or “like new” or “gently used” school uniform clothing appropriate for middle school or high school aged students, please contact us.

## **Thank you!**

A thank you in advance for anyone who helped get this idea up and running! Thank you to Nurse Thomas and Mrs. Geyer who agreed to assist with the project and help our community and our kids. Thank you to our administration for supporting the idea and most importantly thank you to the Belle Vernon TFIM group for our inspiration!

The Nurse, Mrs. Geyer, Ms. Dunmire and student volunteers will routinely work with our donations and upkeep of the room. We would also like to recognize the many staff members who continue to assist in maintenance and upkeep of the Caring Closet.