

Dear Families,

We want to let you know about a new initiative that we are starting here at Sherwood called Andy's Closet. Andy's Closet is an offshoot of Andy's Attic that is run out of South Community High School in Worcester and is directed by a Shrewsbury parent, Christine Foley. The family of Andy Reese, SHS class of 2012, who was killed in a tragic car accident on December 7, 2010, developed Andy's Attic five years ago in Andy's honor.

Andy's character and the inspiration for Andy's Attic is best summed up by the quote from literature put out by Andy's Attic: *"Andy was a thoughtful, kind person who actively showed his compassion by reaching out to teenagers and kids in need."* The mission of Andy's Attic is "to provide gently used clothing, shoes, coats and new socks and undergarments to needy teenagers and their families in Worcester County and beyond."

Andy's Closet will be a smaller version of Andy's Attic and at this time will focus on collecting new and gently used clothing to share with children of middle school age (grades 5 – 8).

Andy's Closet mission statement:

Our mission is to share clothing with families through the generosity of the Sherwood Community as we seek to live in service to one another.

Our purpose is to promote *kids helping kids*, at the same time honoring Andy's memory. When considering contributions as a family, please talk with your children about the sensitivity and confidentiality that comes with sharing. **The students will be very happy if they see a schoolmate using what they have shared, but it will be important to cherish the good feelings inside and not mention to others that a schoolmate is wearing their former clothing.** We appreciate you helping your child to understand the importance of respecting the dignity and privacy of those who will benefit from their gifts of clothing. *We ask that shared clothing be in very good condition: clothing that you would consider passing along to your own family and friends. Please see below for criteria and suggested sizes.*

We are very excited about this opportunity for the students of the Sherwood Community to participate in reaching out to care for one another and put the Sherwood Core Values into action. We will be introducing this effort more formally to the Sherwood Community and beyond in the fall of 2016, including opportunities for community service with Andy's Closet for Sherwood students.

Please email me at kgutekanst@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Karen R. Gutekanst

Criteria for donations:

- Clean (Please wash clothing before donating.)
- New and gently used (clothing that could be shared with family or friends)
- **No rips, no tears, no stains, no holes**
- *Nothing personalized (with name, etc.)*
- **We will accept only NEW undergarments, socks, and bathing suits in the original packaging or with tags still attached.**

Sizes that we most need:

- Girls/Boys sizes 10 – 16
- Teen sizes
- Adult small and medium sizes

We accept large and extra large adult sized clothing in styles that would be worn by a middle school aged child.