

# Palm Beach's National Council of Jewish Women opens latest Kids Community Closet

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The Palm Beach Section of the National Council of Jewish Women recently opened its 15th Kids Community Closet at Heritage Elementary School in [Greenacres](#).

The NCJW's Kids Community Closet program fills secure closets of Title One public elementary schools, where more than 90 percent of the children are living at or below the poverty level, with basic clothing items to promote the self esteem that comes from being properly dressed in clean, new clothes. These closets are stocked with school uniforms, socks, underwear, belts and sweatshirts that are distributed by school personnel as needs arise. The program serves children recognized by school staff to be in need of basic clothing because their parent or guardian is unable to provide for their need.

Sarah Rothschild, vice president of the Kids Community Closet program of the Palm Beach section of NCJW, said, "The mission of the National Council of Jewish Women is to help women, children and families in our community."

"It's pretty obvious that if a child does not have clean clothes, clothes that fit or proper clothing for school, they're going to be embarrassed, they're not going to want to come to school and they're not going to perform at their optimum, so we do our best to solve the problem," added Rothschild.

With the opening of its 15th closet, the NCJW's Palm Beach Section now serves more than 10,000 students in 15 Palm Beach County schools. The

recent closet opening was dedicated to designer Diane Gilman, known as Home Shopping Network's "Queen of Jeans," who cut the ceremonial ribbon at the opening event. It was attended by several local dignitaries including Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard and Greenacres Mayor Joel Flores as well as representatives from the school board of the School District of Palm Beach County.

Nina Lant, principal at Heritage Elementary School, was proud of the opening's turnout. Lant is also grateful for the NCJW's Palm Beach Section for stepping up with this closet that will provide students with new clothes.

"While we're able to provide them meals and supplies, there's a gap in terms of them needing at times a new pair of pants or a new top, because kids grow super fast. A lot of times kids grow out of their clothing, so it's very nice that the organization stepped in and provided that service for the kids."

When asked what kind of Jewish values are exemplified by providing this program, Rothschild said, "We're supporting women and children and we're giving back. Most of our volunteers are retired women and instead of just sitting back, we're giving forward."

The organization's volunteers stock the closets with pants, shorts, skirts, sweatshirts, collared jerseys, underwear and socks. On request, it provides school supplies and personal care items. Through its partnership with the Margate-based nonprofit organization In Jacob's Shoes, schools are able to obtain free footwear for their students.

Visit [ncjwpalmbeach.org/community-service-and-community-outreach/](http://ncjwpalmbeach.org/community-service-and-community-outreach/) for more information.

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