

# Falcon Closet preys on spirit of giving

## Middle school guidance counselors help out those in need this holiday season

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COVENTRY – The guidance department at Feinstein Middle School thought of an idea in November to help families at the school keep warm this winter.

They began collecting donations of gently-used or new clothing to create the Falcon Closet, a program designed to help the

middle school students and their families. The week after Thanksgiving, the store opened its doors.

“Coats and sweatshirts were the main thing we were thinking about first because it’s going to get cold,” explained Lori Lebrun, one of the guidance counselors.

Yet when the donations came rolling in, the clothing selection expanded to include winter coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, pants

and more. According to Cheryl Fram-Sevigny, a guidance counselor, donations have been from faculty members and co-workers.

“The families that I’ve seen need everything: coats, pants, shirts, shoes. We had one student, a seventh-grade student, who was wearing her mother’s size 10 shoes. She is not a size 10 so we came down here and got her a couple pairs of sneakers,” said Fram-Sevigny.

Currently, the program is open to just families at the school. The majority of the sizes are children’s but they do offer some

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Lauren Knight-Daily Times

A look inside of the well-stocked Falcon Closet at Feinstein Middle School.

# Closet offers gently-used and new items for students and families

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adult options. Fram-Sevigny and Lebrun estimated that they have hundreds of items, including the clothing in storage for restock.

For now, the Falcon Closet is kept on the stage of the auditorium but they hope to eventually find it a permanent home.

The clothing is entirely free of charge. Anyone interested should contact one of the guidance counselors to set up an appointment. "We will bring them down, they can browse and then leave with whatever they need," said Fram-Sevigny.

Thus far, the school has received "a bit" of a reaction but is hoping for more.

"To kick it off, we've had a very good start I think, personally," she said.

While it is currently open to just families of students at FMS, the guidance department is open to expanding in the future.

"Since this is our first year, our thinking was that it would be open to Feinstein Middle School student families initially. Where it goes from here, who knows? It could become a community thing," said Fram-Sevigny.

The closet is a new idea in

the district, as far as both Lebrun and Fram-Sevigny can recall. They mentioned that the high school does offer a similar program in the spring for gently-used prom gowns.

"We are starting out small and hoping that maybe in time we'll get bigger. For now, we need to see how well it's received," said Fram-Sevigny.

Families from Feinstein Middle School interested in the Falcon Closet can contact one of the guidance counselors at 822-9426. The extension for Lori Lebrun is 255, for Cheryl Fram-Sevigny is 207 and for Guidance Counselor Trish Dorchie is 208.