

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

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GRANT # 2021-22-1

BCSF office use only

GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant Name(s): Robert Boley/Shelley Hilton-Cullum **Date:** 8/31/21

School Building: BHS **BCSF Rep:** Betsy Matt Turner

Applicant's Email: shiltoncullum@bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Phone #: 563-332-7005 (office) or 319-481-9012 (cell)

Title of the Project/Grant: Bulldog Closet Expansion Project

Department/Grade Level: Student Services 9-12

Number of Students Impacted: 1550

Start Date of Project: 10/1/21 **End Date of Project:** ongoing

Amount Requested from BCSF: \$1,450.00

Total Budget of Project: \$3000.00

Purpose

Maslow Before Bloom is a phrase used in education to remind us that students are more ready and able to learn when their physical and emotional needs are met first. As evidenced by increasing numbers of students in our free/reduced lunch program, our students continue to need support from the community in order to meet these needs and get them ready to learn. At Bettendorf High School our free/reduced lunch percentage went from 24.9% in 2015-16 to 28.3% in 2020-21. The purpose of this grant is to expand the Bulldog Closet Program, which provides clothing, shoes, and other hygiene essentials such as shampoo, deodorant, and other health-related items to Bettendorf High School students.

Students miss valuable instructional time if they are sent home to change clothes due to clothing being ill-fitting/uncomfortable/dirty, violating dress code, having spilled food or drink on it, or having personal accidents while at school. Sometimes students who go home to change do not return to school that day. Students who lack access to hygiene items at home can also be ostracized by their peers. We know that students are more prepared to learn when they feel they fit in with their peers and feel good about themselves. What they wear and how they appear can have a big impact on how they feel about themselves. The Bulldog Closet will offer students the chance to obtain needed

hygiene items and school appropriate clothing they feel good about wearing, including a large selection of Bettendorf apparel.

Solution

- Describe how this grant request will improve and enhance the learning experience for students impacted by the above identified problem/need.

The Bulldog Closet program, started in 2019, offers daily access for emergency student needs as well as offering a quarterly shopping experience to all Bettendorf High School students at no cost to students. There is a high demand on a weekly basis for appropriate clothing and hygiene items for students. An average of 10 students per week are sent to Student Services to ask for emergency clothing, shoes or hygiene items. Currently clothing and other items are housed in storage tubs in the School Social Worker's office or in boxes in the conference room. In order to make the clothing and other items more accessible to all Student Services staff AND to be able to meet more student needs with a larger selection, this project would transition a back hallway of the Student Services Office into a storage area for these items using large storage cabinets which can be locked. District level facilities staff has approved using cabinets in this area for the project. More storage would also give us a larger selection of clothing to offer at the quarterly Bulldog Closet shopping experience. We are requesting portable hanging racks in order to display items like winter coats, dress or professional clothing and larger items during the quarterly Bulldog Closet events. By meeting the physical needs of students, we aim to reduce missed instructional time and increase self esteem, resulting in more successful students academically and socio-emotionally.

- What led you to select your approach to impact this problem/need? Provide supporting information.

In order to promote Bloom's Taxonomy (levels of thinking) for student learning, we must first apply Maslow's Hierarchy (tiers of student need). In other words, before a student can understand, apply, and remember what they are learning in class, their physical needs such as clothing, food, and shelter must first be met. Students must also feel safe and a sense of belonging in the school community. In 2019, the Student Services Office at Bettendorf High School implemented a Mini Food Pantry through a partnership with River Bend Foodbank. In 2020, an additional partnership with a local church allowed us to help feed hungry students over the weekends. We also have partnered with Ruhl & Ruhl and another local church to provide a wide variety of person hygiene items for our students. Our current challenge is to better organize and store appropriate clothing/shoes and hygiene items for this growing population of students.

We have developed several additional partnerships that can support the expansion of the Bulldog Closet Program. We regularly obtain a significant donation of clothing and shoes from Plato's Closet Davenport and BCSD Employees. Our newest partnership is with Dress For Success, a national nonprofit that provides clothing for work and interviews for young women. Dress for Success will also lead students through a Future Ready curriculum during a series of Pride

sessions. We are excited about this new opportunity and hope to launch the educational component in January.

The Bulldog Closet also partners with National Honor Society and SELL (Social Emotional Learning Leadership) Crew to give students the opportunity to earn volunteer hours by sorting and setting up for our events. Student leaders give time before and after school to support the Bulldog Closet as a resource for all 1550 of our high school students.

- Mullin, Greg. (2020) Maslow before Bloom. Accessed at <https://www.exploringthecore.com/post/maslow-before-bloom>
- Maslow, A.H. (1943) A Theory of Human Motivation. *Psychological Review*. Accessed at: <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/1943-03751-001>
- Mann, M. J., Smith, M. L., Kristjansson, A. L., Daily, S., McDowell, S., & Traywick, P. (2021). Our Children Are Not "Behind" Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but Our Institutional Response Might Be. *The Journal of School Health, 91*(6), 447–450. Accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.13016>

Project Outline

- Provide a detailed outline listing steps and timeline of how the proposed grant will be executed.
 1. By mid October: Order cabinets and racks
 2. October: Collect additional clothing from staff, donors and Plato's Closet
 3. By October 31st: Assemble/set up new storage and fill with collected donations during an after school volunteer opportunity
 4. November 1: Expanded Bulldog Closet is ready to be accessed for individual student needs.
 5. Mid November: Hold 2nd quarter Bulldog Closet event with expansion in place
 6. Repeat quarterly each year
- Describe the concrete ways you will measure or evaluate the results of the proposed grant.

We will track the number of items and of students served individually for emergencies who may otherwise have gone home to change. At the quarterly Bulldog Closet event, we will track the number of students served in addition to the number of items given away.

In addition, we will track the number of student volunteer hours that are earned by students in NHS, SELL Crew or other students doing community service hours.

Project Narrative & Grant Criteria

- Circle or highlight which of the following BCSF criteria below this proposed grant aligns with: (More than one may apply.)
 - Supplemental materials for new programs or initiatives that is unobtainable through other methods.

- New ideas or materials that assist in meeting established standards and benchmarks or educational needs of groups of students.
- Supports 21st Century skills (critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and collaboration).
- Educational needs of a specific group of students.
- Educational events, activities and/or programs.
- Educational equipment or technology.

Budget

- Attach an itemized breakdown of how the funding will be used.
- Please include in the budget the entire cost of the grant.

Item Description	Cost	# Purchased	Subtotal
Metal Locking Storage Cabinet	\$325.00	3	\$975.00
Shipping/Delivery	\$125.00	1	\$125.00
Simply Essential Commercial Grade Dual Sided Garment Rack	\$80	4	\$320
Simply Essentials Double Hang Adjustable closet rod	\$15	2	\$30
Clothing, Shoes & Accessories	\$1550	1	\$1550**
Total Budget of Project	\$3000		\$3000

**Outside Funding	Source	Amount
Clothing, shoes, accessories	Plato's Closet	\$500 in kind donation
Clothing, shoes, accessories	Staff donations	\$500 in kind donation
Business/dress attire	Dress for Success	\$300 in kind donation
Hygiene Products	Community Partners	\$250 in kind donation

Total Requested from BCSF	\$1450.00
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Reflection

- It is important for the Foundation to show the results of these grants to our community. Please list the ways you will share the success of this project with the Foundation. (video, test scores, photos, student success stories etc.)
In addition to data, we will share event video and photos with the foundation. We will share success stories obtained from students, school nurse, teachers and counseling staff. We can acknowledge our partners via Social Media if they choose to be recognized for their contributions.

- Completion of the Grant Reflection Form is required to be eligible for the Finnessy Award. The Grant Reflection Form can be found on the BCSF link on the school website. **Failure to complete the Grant Reflection Form may impact future grant funding.**

Other Information

- Is there any additional information the Foundation should know in consideration of your grant proposal?
We have been inspired with how well received this project has been since inception. We are excited to expand it and make it even more accessible to students.



Signature & Date of Applicant



Signature & Date of BCSF Representative



Signature & Date of Building Principal

Or appropriate Lead Principal
if district wide grant

All three signatures are required prior to submission to BCSF Board of Trustees. Rolling Grant Cycle, please submit your application when it is completed.

**Please submit to: Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation
P.O. Box 1150 Bettendorf, IA 52722 foundation@bettendorf.k12.ia.us**