

The Clothes Line



OUTFITTERS
CLOTHE A CHILD | CHANGE A LIFE



October 2007

Kelley's Story

You never know what life will bring you. One day everything is going fine, and the next minute your world can be turned upside down. Nearly two years ago, Kelley, a single mother with three children, had the security of a new and promising career as a customer service rep with a local health care provider. A month before Christmas, she was seriously injured in an auto accident.

She awoke days later to find herself in intensive care being monitored for bleeding around the heart having sustained head trauma, compression fractures to the spine and a broken leg. Because the accident occurred six days prior to her being on the job a year, she did not qualify for family medical leave nor any disability benefits through her employer. Rehabilitation seemed an eternity. Trying to manage financially, even with the help of Medicaid, was a struggle.

After six months of healing, Kelley was being released to return to work. She looked forward to a sense of normalcy and independence being restored in her life. At which point, the unimaginable happened. She was t-boned by another vehicle. This time, transport to a different hospital was required due to a ruptured spleen and fractures to the pelvic and pubic bones. The emotional stress and anxiety were overwhelming. A year has passed, and her recovery continues.

Kelley says, "I'm not sure what the future holds, but I have learned that good things come from difficult circumstances. My faith in God has increased immensely over the past couple of years. There have been so many wonderful people who have reached out to me and my family. Living in this community has truly been a blessing!"

Because her family qualifies through the free and reduced lunch program, Kelley's daughter was able to shop at Outfitters this fall. With the warm weather lasting into September, her daughter inquired daily when she could wear her new clothes. She just couldn't wait to wear the pink sparkly camouflage pants and other outfits she'd chosen. The cooler days finally arrived, and she proudly wore them to school with a big smile on her face – remembering the fun she had picking them out at her very own "shopping spree."

Kelley is just one of the many single parents that Outfitters services. Over 50% of Outfitters clients are single parents trying to make ends meet – which is hard to do these days even in two-income households! When faced with hard decisions such as "Do I buy food or pay the gas bill?" or "Do I buy shoes or clothes for my child?" these parents are often forced to choose the prior. One of Outfitters' goals is to try to relieve the financial stress from these parents and make sure they know that others in the community care about them and their children. The results: squeals of glee, smiling faces and sighs of relief from grateful parents.



A Child Says Thank You

Dear Outfitters,

Thank you for all your help. My mom works nights and doesn't make much money and she goes to school too, so she gets tired easily. My grandparents can't work so my mom has to support them too. As my mom complains, the gas prices are high and she has to drive a lot and there are lots of taxes every year so we have to try and save.

I've been needing more clothes, socks and a new backpack for a while now. We appreciate your help.

4th grader at Maple Ridge Elementary



One of Outfitters' happy shoppers!



Outfitters Inc.

123 1/2 W. State Street
P.O. Box 164
Pendleton, IN 46064

Outfitters is a Christian service that exists to provide new and quality used, in-style clothing to low-income children in South Madison County.

Phone Number
765-778-9097

Mary Harvey
Director of Operations

Michelle Marks
Director of Development

Board of Directors

Leigh Berline
Diane Burgette
Susan Chatham
Donna Hutton
Dan Joyce
Trey Oldham
Chris Wilson

**Outfitters welcomes
Donna Hutton as its
newest board member.**

Ovid Community Church Meets the Challenge

During Ovid's Kids Crusade: Heroes of Faith program this summer, church youth leaders asked the children to be "heroes" to children in need in our community by bringing in an offering for Outfitters. The children quickly became superheroes by collecting over \$600 during their weekend program. But the fun didn't end there.

Ben Stuckey, the Youth Minister at Ovid, offered a challenge to the church's congregation that Sunday. He challenged

them to match the kids' offering and if they did, he would dye his hair green! Well, by looking at this picture, you know what the results were. The church met the challenge and Ovid ended up collecting almost \$1,500 for Outfitters. Thank you so much Ovid for your support, and thank you, Ben, for your crazy challenge!



Shoe Drive Raises Money for Over 120 Shoes

By the middle of September, Outfitters had already scheduled over 420 children to come and shop for a week's wardrobe. Each child received a \$25 shoe voucher to Kohls or Shoe Carnival. To help cover the cost of shoes, Outfitters held its first annual shoe drive. Shoe "tags" were sent out with all Pendleton utility bills in August, six of Outfitters' church partners put up clotheslines with shoe tags and National City and First Merchants bank hung shoe tags for their customers.

The response was great. Donations covered over 120 pairs of shoes! It's not too late to give. Simply fill out the donation form in this newsletter and mail it in with your donation. Next year's goal is to cover the cost of ALL 400+ shoe vouchers! Thank you to those who helped buy shoes this year!

\$5,000 Grant Received from MCCF



socks. It was a blessing to have the grant to cover some of those expenses."

Outfitters received a \$5,000 grant from the Madison County Community Foundation (MCCF) to assist in buying clothes, socks, underwear and shoes for the children shopping this fall. Mary Harvey, Outfitters Director of Operations, stated, "Once shopping started in August, it didn't take long for us to spend the money. We are always running short on young boys pants and shirts and we have to buy all of the underwear and

Volunteer's Employer Donates to Outfitters

Lisa Morgan, one of Outfitters' volunteers, decided to approach her Carmel-based employer and ask them to support Outfitters. "The majority of companies will do some form of donation. They usually have a budget for it," says Lisa Morgan. "You just have to approach them in the right way. I gave the owner Outfitters' newsletter and told him of my family's involvement."

The result was that Zotec Partners, LLC made a \$500 donation to Outfitters. As Lisa states, "If you don't ask, you don't know. It never hurts to ask."

Thank you Lisa for your dedication and to Zotec Partners for its donation!

Volunteer of the Quarter

Patti Perkins is Outfitters' Volunteer of the Quarter. Patti really stepped up to the plate—in fact she ATE the plate—this last quarter. Patti came into Outfitters practically EVERY DAY this last quarter to help sort through and hang clothes, prepare the store for fall shopping, do clerical work, and be a shopping assistance leader. You name it; Patti did it! We can't thank Patti enough for her commitment and passion for Outfitters and our clients!

"If you have ever visited Outfitters and watched the kids shop, you will know exactly why I volunteer. Watching the excitement as kids pick out their own clothes; seeing the smiles on their faces as they try on clothes and sometimes model for helpers. . .well, it just gives you the 'warm fuzzies' all over," says Patti. "I love helping the kids in this small way. I have always considered them gifts from God and it is such a blessing to me each time I hear a child's laugh or see a smile on their face."



Patti continues, "Even when I am in the 'sorting room' or just filing, I feel God's blessing upon me, because I know that even the smallest thing I do at Outfitters may help a child or a family feel God's love. I am so very blessed to be able to volunteer at Outfitters and the time I give this ministry just continues to give back in so many ways."

One kind act can change the course of a child's life!

Gifts to Outfitters help us to clothe children in need in South Madison County. With over 800 children on the free and reduced lunch program, we need your help!

Outfitters is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Organization Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, I/We would like to make a gift to Outfitters:

Ultimate Outfitter \$1000

Select Outfitter \$500

Classic Outfitter (Clothe a Child for a Year) \$200

Essential Outfitter (Clothe a Child for a Season) \$100

Other \$ _____

Pledge a total of \$ _____ per month

Gift of securities, real estate or other assets

Please make checks payable to Outfitters, Inc.

I would prefer to remain anonymous

Please indicate how you would like to be recognized in our printed material:

I would like to pay tribute with my gift. (please check one)

In honor of: _____
(Name of person honored)

In memory of: _____
(Name of person memorialized)

If you would like to inform the above person or family of your tribute gift, please indicate whom you would like to notify. (Gift amount is not mentioned)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City,State,Zip _____

Outfitters Report Card

of Children Served

724

of Items Distributed

Shirts	8255
Pants	5915
New Socks	6392
New Underwear	6062
Skirts/Dresses	712
Jackets	849
Accessories	898
Used Shoes	662
Shoe Vouchers*	1014

*\$25 vouchers to Shoe Carnival or Kohls paid for by Outfitters

Lions Club Donates \$1,700 Worth of Clothing

It was a long way up the stairs carrying all those bags of clothes - just ask Dick and Penny Creger, Betty Weist, Brian and Kellie Ritchie and their two children Tyler and Ashley. As representatives of the Pendleton Lions Club, they purchased \$1,700 worth of young boys and girls clothes for fall shopping.



“Every year the Lions Club comes through for us,” says Michelle Marks, Outfitters’ Director of Development. “We know it takes a lot of their time to go and purchase these items. We truly appreciate their support.”

THANK YOU LIONS CLUB!!

Congratulations to Debbie Brown who was the winner of the drawing at Outfitters’ sock and underwear drive at the Back-to-School Fair. Debbie received a \$50 gift card to Kohls. Thank you to all who donated socks and underwear!



Outfitters, Inc.

A non-profit organization

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