

Pay It Forward

Tiffin City Schools Tiffin, OH Seneca County

Initiative Type(s):

Mental health services, Services for homeless youth, Services for child-welfare involved youth, Community liaisons, Mentoring programs, Family engagement and support services, Professional development regarding cultural competence, Student services provided prior to or after the regularly scheduled school day or at any time school is not in session.

Community Partner(s):

Nonprofit organization with experience serving children, Other (please specify): community-based organizations

Description of Initiative:

Families and individuals will be welcomed into a renovated space to shop for clothing and personal hygiene items. The items are provided free of charge, giving families the things they need to ensure their children can succeed. The students maintain records and inventory and monitor the facilities. It is a wonderful opportunity to give back in a learning style that empowers students with the much-needed soft skills for life.

Initiative Benefits:

You feel good when you look good! Our families now have access to name brand, gently used or new items that will allow them to feel good. Donations are accepted from the community, laundered and sorted by students. When the doors open for business, the students work with the clients to find items, count items, pack them and inventory what is needed. This impacts the students directly. It also allows the recipients to have one less worry and the ability to send their children to school comfortably.

Essential Staff and Partners:

Tiffin-Seneca United Way is our community partner that maintains the donations, both monetary and physical. The National Machinery Foundation donated seed money to completely renovate a garage space into the boutique that it currently is. The sign was designed by a high school student. Students in the MD unit at the high school said they wanted to host the store, do the laundering and manage the facility. Sentinel Vanguard has partnered with us to provide many opportunities for students to learn both academically and on the job.

Action Steps to Get Started:

This was a 2 year visionary process. Any district could replicate this amazing program with the help of generous community partners, a class of student workers and a facility to host the store.

For More Information:

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NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were used for this initiative.