

# Eagle Clawset

**Belpre City School District**

**Belpre, OH | Washington County**

## Initiative Type(s):

Services for homeless youth; Family engagement and support services; Services for child welfare involved youth

## Community Partner(s):

Nonprofit organization with experience serving children

## Description of Initiative:

The Eagle Clawset is an initiative developed by Belpre City School District to provide school supplies, hygiene items, undergarments, gently-used clothing, coats and non-perishable food items to students and families who are in-need. The program is structured as a supplies exchange wherein everything in the Eagle Clawset is free for any who need resources. To ensure that resources are being used, excess stock is rotated periodically through donations to area food pantries and thrift stores. In operation, donations to the Eagle Clawset are accepted through canned food drives, from community organizations and from individual donations.

## Initiative Benefits:

Having school supplies and clothing on hand provides security for students in Belpre City School District who are in need. Additionally, having non-perishable food items on hand provides under-resourced families with an additional source of support for short-term food emergencies. This allows families to support their students in their academic achievement. Additionally, working with staff and student organizations to support the project increases institutional awareness of these community needs and helps the school community to come together. This program has created a sense of community within the district and has garnered publicity from local news outlets, which increased community awareness of the program and ensures that more families have access to the services provided. This project is structured as a supplies exchange, which ensures that families who find themselves in need do not feel embarrassed when accessing services. This structure of "taking what you need, donating when you can" increases accessibility and promotes donations.

## Essential Staff and Partners:

Belpre Area Ministries, Belpre City School Student Council and the Belpre City School District Student Services Department which provides oversight and stock rotation. Other key partners are the numerous pantries and helping organizations in the area that send overstocked supplies and non-perishables food items to the Eagle Clawset.

## Action Steps to Get Started:

To establish this program, Belpre City School District designated an on-campus location to store non-perishable food items and clothing. Then, a field trip was organized to a local food pantry that agreed to partner with Belpre City Schools to assist with developing a sustainability plan and promoting awareness of the scope of the need.

## For More Information:

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**NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were not used for this initiative.**