



Clubs & Orgs

12

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT OPENS UP THE "CLAWSET"

Olivia Naber
Head Editor-in-Chief

Ofentimes, apparel makes the difference between being in a school and being part of a school. Wearing the Bears' signature red evokes a sense of school pride and belonging that comes from being part of something bigger than yourself.

But, let's face it—new apparel is expensive. Not all students can afford to show their spirit or keep up with the ever-changing selection of apparel available for purchase.

The desire for all students to be able to show their Bear Pride inspired a new project by the Student Government: a spirit rack with free ready-to-grab apparel for anyone who needs it.

The idea for the project was born during one of student government's summer meetings. A few students heard of apparel drives when attending the Iowa Association of Student Councils State Conference the previous year.

Adviser Abby Noelck explained, "We all really liked it, and everybody was really on board. It more came to fruition when [the officers and I] went to Leadership Boot Camp, and they kind of workshopped this idea and made it come to life."

After working through the logistics of the project, student government began gathering materials and advertising to the community. Student government announced the project in the days leading up to Homecoming Week. Students and community members were encouraged to donate new or

previously loved Bears clothing items so they could find a new home.

Donations came in hot, with entire boxes of Bears gear coming in droves. Within days, Student Government gathered a plethora of clothing from students, staff, and the community.

From there, special education teacher Dawson Ryner and his students assisted the group in cleaning the clothes before they got hung on the clothing rack. Student Government volunteers put together the rack, as well as sorting and hanging the donations.

As students made their way through Noelck's classroom and saw the Clawset's progress, buzz began to spread over the project.

"Honestly, I loved having [the Clawset] in my room for a while," beamed Noelck, "because a lot of the students just got to watch the process come together, so I had students who were like, 'Seriously, when is this available? I want that clothing.' So it was really fun to watch the excitement build."

When each piece of the puzzle was finally put together, Student Government opened the rack up to the public on Wednesday, November 7. While there were hopes that at least a couple of students might take advantage of the rack, nobody anticipated how eager students were to check out the Clawset.

Students rushed to take a look at and claim clothes for themselves. Despite the "two per person" rule to promote fairness, the Clawset, which initially held several items, looked quite bare by the second day. Only a few items and countless empty hangers were

left by the end of the day.

"I didn't realize how fast the items were going to go," commented Student Government Secretary Nina Torkelson, who contributed to the project. "I didn't get any new clothes, but I really don't need more."

The success of the rack has far-reaching implications for students who are now able to express their Bear pride.

Marcy Willier, one of many community members who donated clothes, expressed that the Clawset could be an important addition to school life for many students and their families.

"I think it's a great opportunity because not all families can have the opportunity or the funds to buy certain apparel," said Willier. "It's always fun to be part of the crowd, especially because we've had such good years with athletics, and to be able to support your team. And I just think the most impact is for those families that need a little bit of help. It's a fun way to [help them out] without pointing them out and just letting all students be a part of it."

In addition to benefiting students and families looking for Bears apparel, The Clawset allows people the opportunity to part with clothes in a way that will support those around them, as opposed to throwing clothes away or donating them to Goodwill. It's a win-win solution that benefits all parties involved.

"As a parent, I know I have given my kids' WB gear away to friends or taken it to Goodwill. I love having the option of giving it to current students and families," com-

mented principal Sara Oswald. "Also, many families are not able to prioritize spirit wear for their children. It can be pricey with so many options advertised throughout the year. I love that those students are able to find something that works for them."

Student government hopes to keep the project going throughout the year, with new rounds of donations and "shopping days" as needed.

Those interested in donating clothes to the Clawset can bring donations to the high school office.



Available Clawset donations are placed on racks in the activity commons near the HS office. Photo by Olivia Naber.



THOSE GREAT MONTANA SKIES!

Photo by Miley Shields.

NHS holds Fall Food Drive

Katey Noble
Co-Editor-in-Chief

NHS seasonal committee members set up a food drive to donate to the West Branch Food Pantry. Items were accepted from November 13 to November 21. They collected almost 80 items within this time.



NHS member Claire Jarrett sorts through food donations for the WB Food Pantry. Photo by Ashlynn Nash.



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