

In response to the challenges our youth face that are strongly tied to their body image and self-esteem, the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau initiated the Clothing Closet in July 2016. We have gathered support, made space, and collected a room full of items for youth in need.

Youth required to complete community service hours have an opportunity to work with employees to maintain the closet by assisting in ironing and organizing the clothing.

**We need your help!** Please consider donating **new/lightly used, clean, and age appropriate** attire to our cause.

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE A HIGH  
DEMAND FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**For Males:**

Casual shirts, collared shirts, belts, jeans, dress pants, shoes (athletic and professional), new socks, hygiene items.

**For Females:**

Blouses, dresses, jeans, dress pants, athletic shoes, new socks, hygiene items.

Donations may be dropped off with the receptionist at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

To arrange for your donation to be picked up, please call Crystal Pierce, Probation Supervisor, at 405-713-6626 or send an e-mail to JJCRYPIE@oklahomacounty.org.

**Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau  
Clothing Closet and Charles  
Thomas Tie Project**



Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau  
5905 N. Classen Court, Room 202  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
405-713-6400

## Our Goal

By developing our own clothing closet at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau (OCJB), we aim to provide assistance to youth who face barriers because they lack clean and presentable attire. We want to empower our youth by teaching them acceptable ways to dress and enable them to go to school, interview for and maintain a job, participate in a community event, or attend a court hearing with confidence.

The OCJB embarked on this goal in 2014 when one of our probation officers began teaching youth how to tie a necktie. The officer credits his father, Charles Thomas, a well-known coach and mentor, for his own passion to help troubled youth. When Charles passed away, his son made use of the ties he inherited by teaching a group of his clients how to tie them, speaking to them about professional image, and gifting them the ties. It came to be known as the Charles Thomas Tie Project.

The concept was so well received that the OCJB began to collect ties and other professional clothing to gift to our youth. Years later, our closet also includes essential items such as casual clothing, socks, winter clothing, and hygiene items. All who enter the building are welcomed to take what they need.



## Why?



Most teens struggle with a longing to fit in. Many of the youth served by the OCJB in Oklahoma County are living at or below the poverty line, which may create obstacles in their ability to maintain their appearance and consequently interfere with their body image and self-esteem.

Teens who experience prolonged and deep difficulties with low self-esteem and body image are more likely to develop eating disorders, substance abuse habits, anxiety, and depression. Low self-esteem has a negative effect on teens' relationships with friends and family and can hinder their ability to handle life's challenges. All of these issues can have a significant effect on whether or not they develop healthy peer relationships, stay in school, and are able to secure and maintain employment.

Providing these youth with clean and new or lightly used clothing can help combat this issue. We strive to stand out from other clothing closets in our area by providing fashion-forward, age-appropriate clothing that youth can feel good about wearing.