

Volunteer of the Month - Janet Dudek

Each month we try to feature someone whose thoughtfulness and generosity will interest our readers, both because it is inspiring and worth celebrating.

Beginning in 2013, Grace Lutheran Church started a small service for those in need called "Janet's Closet". Unlike other places such as Salvation Army or Good Will that offer second hand clothing for very low prices, Janet's Closet was created for those for whom even the very low prices at these other charities were a barrier.

It began when Janet Dudek, retired from a 30 year career at St. Francis Hospital as a Medical Transcriptionist. She realized that she would no longer need the many business suits that she had acquired over the years, but rather than



take them to one of the many second hand stores that would sell them, she talked to her fellow members at Grace about starting a free clothing bank. It took a few months to get organized, but eventually Janet's Closet as it came to be called began, and for two hours every Wednesday where anyone in need can take from what it has, continued to the present. Needless to say, a lot more people than Janet have donated clothing, and in the nearly six years since it's founding, countless individuals have been able to receive much needed clothing from the many who continue to donate.

Very recently, Janet's Closet received another large donation when all of Janet's remaining clothes were dropped off as was her wish. She passed on January 17th.

At the memorial service at Grace on Saturday the 26th, Janet's Closet was just one of the many points of light that were celebrated. She loved music, friends and family, and the Yankees, and of course the blind and low vision community of which she was a part.

To make donations to Janet's Closet, call the office at 860 527-7792.

Photos of the celebration can be found at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yEofXJwdinsgc3Fj8>