

A Brief History of Laura's Closet at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

In the mid 1970's, Pastor, Fr. Donfred H. Stockert, realized Our Lady of Lourdes Social Ministry needed to expand to better serve the Lakeside/Francistown communities. At that time a parishioner, Laura Bookheimer, was asked to assemble a team to organize a clothing closet. Space was allocated in the Social Hall, consisting of a room and stage area. A group of volunteers began working: sorting, shelving and hanging donated items. Lourdes was the ringleader in this ministry as other area churches and neighborhood groups were approached for donations of useable clothing. The Room was on its way! Other individuals stepped forth, and a second team was formed, to meet guests, help shoppers find their sizes and be of general assistance. The Clothing Room is open one morning per week to those in need. Items available are men's, women's & children's apparel, shoes, accessories, and linens.

The Clothing Room was christened and bears the name, "Laura's Closet", in memory of the original organizer, Laura Bookheimer.

"Laura's Closet" has expanded and items are donated to: St. Peter Church Homeless Clothing Ministry, St. Francis Nursing Home, Crisis Pregnancy Center, East End Pregnancy Center, Goochland Free Clinic, Butterfly Babies, Moments of Hope, Crossover Ministries, One Faith Ministry, and The Methodist Home.

Laura's Closet has reopened after a long COVID-19 closing, and we are happy to serve those in need on Tuesdays from 9-10:30am each week.