

MAGGIE'S CLOSET TURNS TWO!

LEESBURG, Virginia – November 25, 2013 – In ten days Maggie's Closet, Loudoun County's only free clothing store, will celebrate its second anniversary. Maggie's Closet is located on the Paxton Campus in historic downtown Leesburg. Within a boutique-like setting, Maggie's Closet provides quality clothing to families and individuals in need at no cost and with no questions asked. Since its opening, Maggie's Closet has served over 900 families and has given away more than 30,000 items of clothing.

The store is a job training facility for students with autism at *The Aurora School* on Paxton Campus and provides meaningful employment for other adults in Loudoun who have disabilities. Maggie's has also provided volunteer opportunities for Loudoun County high school students: students have volunteered during summer break, performed clothing drives at their schools, and helped with fundraisers. Local businesses have also held clothing and coat drives periodically when there has been greater need in our community. Maggie's Closet accepts donations of seasonally appropriate new and gently used clothing throughout the year.

Through providing clothing to those in-need, necessary job skills to adults with disabilities, as well as volunteer opportunities to those interested, Maggie's Closet is a unique program that reaches many different people in Loudoun County and is a defining piece of Paxton Campus' goal of giving back to the community.

In 1922, Rachel Paxton had a vision to turn her home and property into a safe and welcoming environment for underprivileged families. In 1967, a group of parents whose children had special needs formed The Arc of Loudoun, a non-profit to start a school for their children when no one else would. In 2010, those two visions combined when The Arc of Loudoun moved to the Paxton Campus. Since then, the Campus has grown into a full-service organization to provide an integrated and innovative learning environment for all ages and abilities. Programs include The Aurora School, Open Door Learning Center preschool, STEP Up vocational training program for adults, and ALLY ("A Life Like Yours") Advocacy Center, all devoted to serving people with disabilities and their families, as well as helping children of all abilities thrive in our community.

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