

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CONFIDENCE CLOSETS GET STOCKED WITH MORE THAN 28,500 ITEMS DONATED BY  
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE**

*Toothpaste, toothbrushes among items donated to benefit hundreds of district students*

PATERSON – The Confidence Closets initiative, a joint venture between the district and the Serve Our Schools coalition of Paterson churches, has received a major donation from the Colgate-Palmolive Company of products that the district's adolescent students need but many cannot afford.

More than 28,500 items were provided by the company including toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, and hand soap. Many Paterson families often go without such items as they continue to feel the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing inflation of the cost of consumer goods.

"We are deeply grateful to everyone at the Colgate Palmolive Company for this generous contribution that puts personal hygiene products in the hands of the students who need them," said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. "When students aren't confident in their personal hygiene, they simply don't come to school. And that has a devastating impact on their academics and their aspirations for future success. The Confidence Closets initiative is aimed at removing this potential barrier out of the way of our students so that they can be at their best while they are in school."

The items donated by the Colgate Palmolive Company were delivered to a warehouse in Glen Rock, the use of which was arranged by Pastor Matt Andersen, Executive Director of Star of Hope Ministries, Inc. and one of the founding members of the Serve Our Schools coalition.

"We are so excited to see this initiative moving forward and we are thankful to the Colgate Palmolive Company, and more than 30 churches and organizations who have collected and are continuing to collect toiletries," said Andersen. "To date we have received more than 2,500 items from Paterson area churches, and quite literally the Lord is multiplying our 'loaves and fishes' through donations from companies like Colgate Palmolive. However, the need is still great as we continue to push to set up Confidence Closets at all 33 district locations. The greatest need is for deodorant and feminine hygiene products."

Deliveries of the items have been made to four schools to date, John F. Kennedy High School, Eastside High School, International High School, and the New Roberto Clemente Middle School. The products are being distributed on the basis of the size of schools' populations of students in grades six through 12. When the Confidence Closets initiative was launched last summer, it was estimated that there were 11,500 students in those grades at 33 different district locations.

The need for more personal hygiene products remains, especially for deodorant and feminine hygiene products.

The latter has been of particular concern for Raquel Amador, a chronic absentee specialist at Kennedy High School who saw how female students without access to feminine hygiene products would not go to class if they got their periods while at school. Amador began keeping a supply of feminine hygiene products in her office. As word got out among the students, she began keeping other personal hygiene products in what became known as “The She Spot,” which is now a partner with the Confidence Closets and will benefit from donations made to the Confidence Closets initiative.

Those who wish to support The Confidence Closets may do so in the following ways:

1. Items can be donated at the Paterson Public Schools Central Office Building, 90 Delaware Ave., Paterson
2. A monetary donation with a check for the purchase of items can be made to:

**The Fund for Paterson Public Schools**

90 Delaware Ave., Paterson, N.J. 07503

Payable to The Fund for Paterson Public Schools.

Write “Confidence Closets” in the memo of the check.

OR

**Star of Hope Ministries**

34 Broadway, Paterson, N.J. 07505

Payable to Star of Hope Ministries.

Write “Confidence Closets” in the memo of the check.

3. A monetary donation can be made online via PayPal to the handle @fundforpps or at [www.sohm.org/schools](http://www.sohm.org/schools)

All monetary donations are tax-deductible.



## **Needed Toiletries For Paterson Public Schools' Confidence Closets**

### **Boys**

- Bar soap
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream/gel
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Hair styling products

### **Girls**

- Bar soap
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Skin moisturizer
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream/gel for women
- Feminine napkins
- Tampons
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Hair styling products
- Hair ties
- Sweatpants

### **For both**

- Dental Floss
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

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