



REMOVING BARRIERS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, TRANSFORMING LIVES

THE PROBLEM

For thousands of students across Palm Beach County, the lack of access to basic clothing and hygiene items has a profound impact on their mental health, academic performance, and a student's overall well-being. Students who come to school without clean clothes or essential hygiene supplies often experience shame, bullying, and social isolation, which can lead to anxiety, depression, and chronic absenteeism. These unmet basic needs disrupt their ability to focus, engage, and succeed in the classroom—causing many to fall behind or drop out entirely.

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a major barrier to student success in Palm Beach County, with **nearly 39% of students missing 11 or more days of school**—an alarming rate that qualifies as chronic absenteeism under state guidelines (Public News Service, 2024). A growing body of evidence points to unmet basic needs—specifically, the lack of appropriate clothing and hygiene products—as key contributors to missed school days. Students without clean clothes, properly fitting uniforms, or personal hygiene supplies often stay home out of embarrassment, fear of bullying, or violations of school dress codes.

According to **data collected by GCP from August 2024 through June 2025 in Palm Beach County**, a significant number of students face deep material and emotional hardship—

- Family-related struggles are the most common of all referrals received this last school year, with over **316 referrals** being submitted. This reality clearly demonstrates that many students are facing challenges related to their family situations, such as parental separation or other domestic difficulties, single-parent households and children removed from parental care.
- Homelessness, housing instability, and involuntary displacement affected the lives of so many families with **over 150 cases**. Many families are living in hotels, shelters, wooded encampments, with relatives, or facing uncertain housing situations.
- Financial hardship is another major barrier, **with upwards of 1069 families** facing financial insufficiencies, unemployment and/or living below the poverty line.

WHO WE ARE

The Giving Closet Project (GCP) is a nonprofit organization committed to removing educational barriers for students experiencing chronic and/or situational poverty. Since 2016, we have served over **18,000** students and families across Northeast & South Florida. Today, GCP is the connective force behind a network of **75+ unique health & social service agencies** and two large school districts (**Duval & Palm Beach County**). Through these partnerships, we proudly serve thousands of vulnerable youth and families facing the compounded challenges of violence, trauma, and mental health struggles each year. Together, we are removing barriers and empowering communities with intentionality and compassion.

MORE THAN “JUST” A CLOTHING CLOSET

Approximately 1,400 students are served annually through **GCP's Essential Angel Program** in Palm Beach County. We accomplish this through:

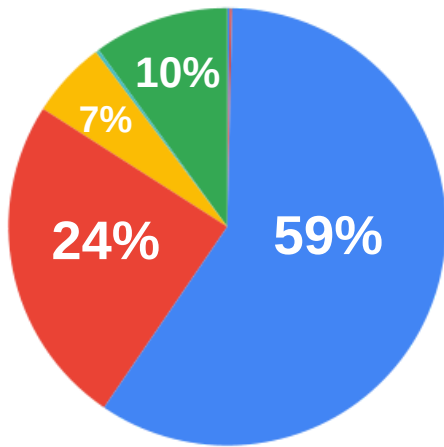
- **Online Referrals:** Ongoing, year-round.
- **Emergency Walk-Ins:** Weekdays during standard business hours.
- **Partner Appointments:** Scheduled weekly with approved organizations.
- **Field Trips / Workshops:** Scheduled year-round.

GCP is a critical component of the continuum of care that supports the whole family, fosters healing, and empowers lasting change. By working together with schools and service providers, GCP helps create a stronger foundation for educational success and emotional well-being. Our mission goes beyond just providing students essential needs; we clothe our students with confidence and compassion, that will last a lifetime.



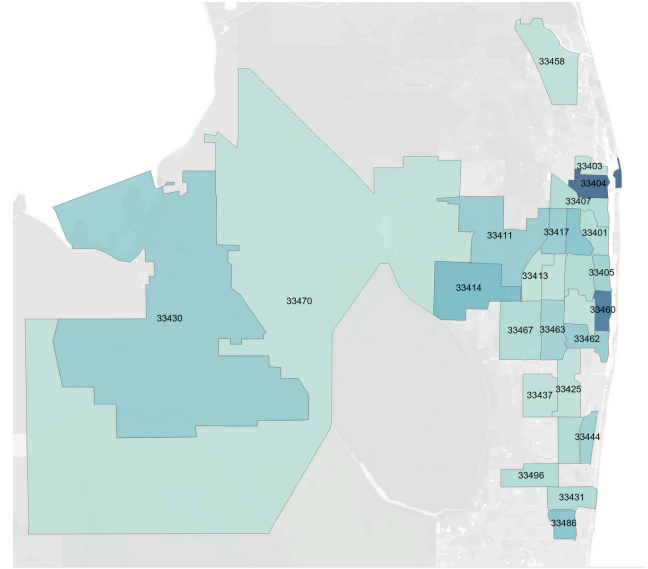
WHO WE SERVE*

Student Ethnicity



- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Multiracial
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

Zip Codes



HIDDEN HURDLES IMPACTING STUDENTS

Housing Instability & Financial Hardship

Family Disruption & Guardianship Challenges

Health, Trauma & Emotional Stress

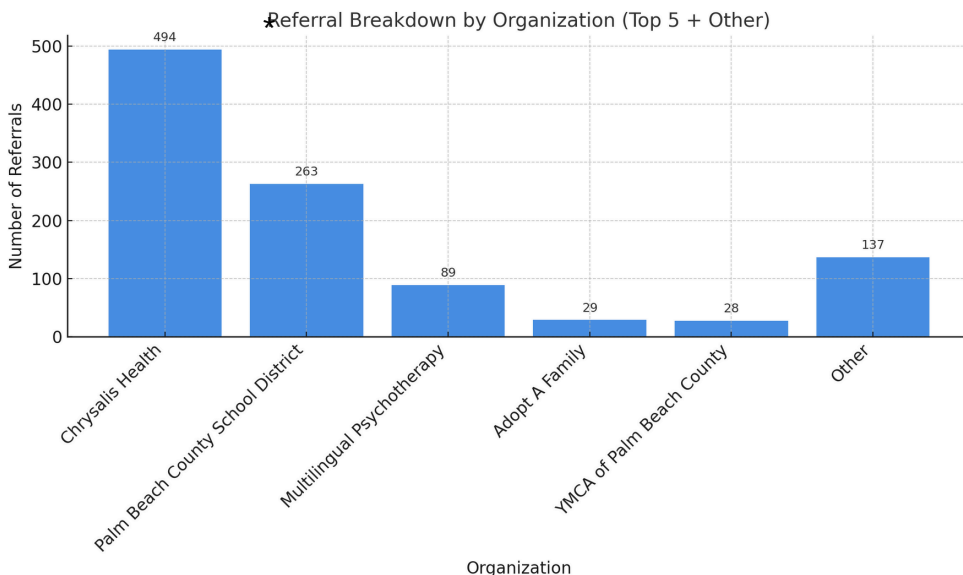
REAL NUMBERS

Over **50%** of cases involved students living in motels, shelters, cars or with temporary caregivers- often due to job loss, poverty, or family crisis.

1 in 4 students are affected by foster care, kinship placements, parental death, incarceration, domestic violence, or DCF involvement.

Roughly **25%** of students are navigating mental health issues, disabilities, or recent trauma such as the death of a parent, medical crises, or exposure to violence.

** Date collected is from online referrals only. This represents only a fraction of who we served throughout the 24-25 school year in Palm Beach County.*



**This referral data only reflects individual online submissions. Data doesn't reflect large bulk order submissions, walk-ins, or emergency appointments.*



SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!



HELP PROVIDE CLOTHING & HYGIENE ITEMS FOR STUDENTS BY GIVING TODAY!