



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Amy Reese

Marketing Manager & Volunteer Center Manager

amy@oshkoshunitedway.org

(920) 651-3051

Haliburton Family Foundation Partnership Expands Year-Round Support for OASD Students

Community collaboration creates a sustainable system to provide students with reliable access to essential supplies

OSHKOSH, Wis. — A new partnership between the Haliburton Family Foundation and local community organizations will expand support for Care Closets throughout the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD), creating a more sustainable systems to provide students with essential supplies throughout the school year.

The partnership grew from conversations surrounding the Oshkosh Back 2 School Fair, Powered by the Haliburton Family Foundation and the Oshkosh Community. Over the past year, those conversations broadened as the Haliburton Family Foundation asked community partners how it could expand its support for local students beyond the annual Fair and where additional investment could have the greatest impact.

The answer emerged from work already underway.

Members of the Hygiene Task Force and Back 2 School Fair Committee worked with school social workers to better understand the year-round needs of individual schools and explore a more sustainable approach. The resulting process leverages the Oshkosh Area United Way Community Vault and coordinates deliveries through the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry's School Pantry Program.

"The Back 2 School Fair is an incredible example of what this community can do when people come together for kids," said Tyrese Haliburton. "We wanted to find a way to build on that support beyond one event, and the Care Closets allow us to serve schools and students throughout the year. I'm excited to work with our community partners to see what we can accomplish together for students across Oshkosh."

With the Foundation's commitment in place, representatives from the Back 2 School Fair Committee met with Matt Kaemmerer, OASD Director of Pupil Services, to align on a shared vision for the Care Closets across the district.

"When students have access to the basic supplies they need, it removes one more barrier that can get in the way of learning," said Matt Kaemmerer, Director of Pupil Services for the Oshkosh Area School District. "Haliburton Family Foundation Care Closets give our school social workers a way to respond quickly and discreetly when a student needs support. Having a more consistent system across the district will help us meet those needs throughout the school year and allow students to focus on what matters most—learning and reaching their full potential."

The partnership is rolling out first at Vel Phillips Middle School, with plans to expand support to Care Closets throughout OASD as the 2026-27 school year begins. Care Closets will provide access to items such as personal hygiene products, laundry detergent, and other essential supplies based on the needs identified by each school.



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The work will continue beyond the initial rollout. The Foundation and key community partners will continue to serve as the initiative's steering committee, evaluating its effectiveness, identifying opportunities for improvement and adapting the approach as the needs of students and schools evolve.

For Oshkosh Area United Way, the partnership demonstrates what can happen when community organizations bring together their resources, relationships and expertise around an identified need.

"No single organization could do this work alone," said Heidi Thomas, President and CEO of Oshkosh Area United Way. "What makes this partnership so exciting is that everyone brings something different to the table—from understanding what students and schools need, to coordinating resources and deliveries, to providing the investment that makes this possible. By working together, we can create something that will serve students not just today, but throughout the school year and for years to come."

Supported by the Haliburton Family Foundation's investment and built on months of collaboration among community partners, the long-term goal is to create a sustainable system that provides every Oshkosh Area School District student with reliable access to essential supplies when they need them.



PHOTO: The Haliburton Family Foundation Care Closet at Vel Phillips Middle School provides students with access to essential items, including hygiene products and other supplies, throughout the school year. The Care Closet is part of a new partnership supporting Care Closets across the Oshkosh Area School District.

PHOTO CREDIT: Zach Massung



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PHOTO: Tyrese Haliburton visits the Haliburton Family Foundation Care Closet at Vel Phillips Middle School in Oshkosh. The Care Closet provides students with access to essential items, including hygiene products and other supplies, and is part of a new partnership supporting Care Closets across the Oshkosh Area School District.

PHOTO CREDIT: Zach Massung



PHOTO: The Haliburton Family Foundation Care Closet at Vel Phillips Middle School in Oshkosh is stocked with essential items for students, including hygiene products and other supplies. The Vel Phillips Care Closet is part of a new partnership supporting Care Closets across the Oshkosh Area School District.

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About Tyrese Haliburton and the Haliburton Family Foundation: Tyrese Haliburton has established himself as one of the NBA's most electric playmakers. His unique combination of style, vision, and charisma has made the Indiana Pacers one of the NBA's most exciting teams and Haliburton a household name.

Hailing from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Haliburton played basketball at Oshkosh North High School, where he led his team to a 26-1 record and a state championship. The impact of sports and philanthropy on young people led him to launch the Haliburton Family Foundation, which strives to expand access for youth through education, community development, health and wellness, and experiential moments. The Haliburton Family Foundation is a fiscally sponsored fund of the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

About Oshkosh Area United Way: Oshkosh Area United Way (OAUW) mobilizes people, partnerships, and resources to expand access to Lifelong Learning, Health & Wellness, and Enabling Resources across southern Winnebago County. Through collaboration, strategic investments, and community-driven initiatives, OAUW strengthens connections and works to build a community where every person has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Learn more or get involved at oshkoshunitedway.org.

About Oshkosh Area Community Pantry: The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP) is dedicated to helping individuals and families in the Oshkosh area access nutritious food with dignity and respect. Through food distribution, community partnerships, volunteers, and the generous support of donors, the Pantry works to address food insecurity and ensure that no one in our community has to face hunger alone. By connecting neighbors with essential resources and fostering a caring, collaborative community, the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP) is committed to building a stronger, healthier, and more food-secure community. Learn more about OACP at oacptoday.org.

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