

What is the Norski Sharing Shed?

The Norski Sharing Shed concept emerged from discussions a few months ago during a monthly meeting of the DeForest Area School District, attended by local clergy and other related representatives. Shirley Block has been participating in these monthly meetings as the CFMC representative, given that we currently do not have a permanent pastor to attend. This idea was conceived to support homeless teenagers in school who require specific items to thrive academically. Following this, conversations with school social workers and psychologists helped to pinpoint those students who would benefit from additional assistance with clothing, hygiene, and other essential supplies. A storage space was necessary, as social workers have limited room in their offices.

Where is it Located?

At an October Church Council meeting, Christ Lutheran approved the use of one of their unused Sunday School rooms to house the Norski Sharing Shed. Shirley generously volunteered her Interior Design consulting services to measure the room, sketch potential layout options, and draft specifications for shelving, wardrobe racks, and storage bins. This will aid the DASD in applying for a grant to secure funding for furnishing the room. Additionally, an area church has contributed some funding, and DANN has provided support for immediate needs. Part of this funding will be converted into gift cards to purchase clothing and shoes as necessary.

How Can We Help?

Local churches are collaborating with the school district to bring this ministry to life. As the initiative evolves, we will receive updates on how we can assist in addressing changing needs throughout the school year. Access to the locked room will be limited to only a few school staff members, who will be given the door code to retrieve items from Christ Lutheran.

What are the Needs Right Now?

We currently require hygiene products, which include:

- Feminine products
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Washcloths
- Towels
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Hair ties
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent
- Men's scented body wash and deodorant

(Note: A generous shipment from the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County has provided floral-scented shower wash and deodorant for women, so no additional items are needed for them at this time.)

Current clothing needs include:

- Crew-length socks
- Black leggings
- Mittens or gloves
- Stocking caps

Who are the CFMC Coordinators?

Laurie and Megan Vanderbloemen have volunteered to provide a collection container in the Narthex and will assist in delivering the products to the school district offices or Christ Lutheran.

Other Ways to Help:

Cash donations can also be directed as offerings; just indicate that they are for the Norski Sharing Shed.

Submitted by Shirley Block

