## Mrs. Mullen's Closet For Benzie County Elementary Schools phillipcook74@gmail.com

Mrs. Mullen's Closet for Benzie County was set up in memory of Dyanne Mullen, a principal at Hart Public Schools and part time resident at Crystal Mountain. Dyanne was instrumental in making sure all students in her building had necessary clothing all year. When Dyanne passed away in 2010, Mrs. Mullen's Closet was started in her memory to continue to help students in Hart.

In 2011, Jim and Chris MacInnes graciously allowed a small group of volunteers to bring Mrs. Mullen's Closet to all five elementary schools in Benzie County (Betsie Valley, Crystal Lake, Frankfort, Lake Ann and Platte River) by allowing a fundraiser to be held at Crystal Mountain. A live and silent auction along with dinner and dancing helped begin Benzie's Mrs. Mullen's Closet.

Our second live and silent auction was held at Crystal Mountain in October of 2013. We hold the live and silent auction every other year and we will be working on the 2015 fundraiser in the near future. Through the generous support of countless Benzie County area businesses, both major fundraisers at Crystal Mountain have been very successful.

In two plus years, over \$18,000.00 has been spent helping students and families in need. The Benzie County Mrs. Mullen's Closet's motto is, "If we see a need, we will tend to it." We rely on school personnel to let us know when Mrs. Mullen's Closet is needed. Besides having new clothing and other necessities available in all five Benzie County elementary schools, MMC has helped numerous families who had major damage due to house fires and has helped a number of families who went through tragic events where MMC's help was greatly appreciated.

Other fundraisers include numerous cash donations (cash donations from individuals, corporate matching donations, foundation donations, in memory of donations, family Christmas donations, area church donations to name a few ways Mrs. Mullen's Closet has received donations) and a raffle during a yearly performance of the Scottville Clown band the second Friday of August also held at Crystal Mountain. Mrs. Mullen's Closet has the necessary funds to quietly help children and families in need throughout Benzie County as needed. Students, families and staff appreciate the support Crystal Mountain, Crystal Mountain Property owners, Benzie County community members and area businesses have shown Mrs. Mullen's Closet.

Mrs. Mullen's Closet is a 501(c)3 organization and checks can be written out to Benzie Central Schools Educational Foundation and sent to Benzie Central Schools 9222 Homestead Road Benzonia, MI 49616. Please write Mrs. Mullen's Closet in the memo or correspondence. A tax deductible receipt will be mailed out upon request.

Please follow us on Facebook at Mrs. Mullen's Closet as we continually update our fundraising activities. We also share a list of businesses that support Mrs. Mullen's Closet. If you would like to donate to Mrs. Mullen's Closet, contact Phil or Cindy Cook at <a href="mailto:phillipcook74@gmail.com">phillipcook74@gmail.com</a> or go to <a href="http://www.benzieschools.net/index.php?page=mrs-mullen-s-closet">http://www.benzieschools.net/index.php?page=mrs-mullen-s-closet</a> on the Benzie Central Schools website.