

→ BY CELIA SHATZMAN

CAUSE →

SHARE WHAT YOU WEAR

ZOE BARIS AND
SAMANTHA ZABELL, 18

Hometown → Orange Village, Ohio

Every weekend Zoe Baris (*far left*) and Samantha Zabell, both 18, spend hours folding clothes. They haven't returned from a killer sale—they're preparing one. As the cofounders of Share What You Wear (SWYW), they host a back-to-school one-day shopping event every August for needy kids of all ages. They gave away 2,000 items at the first event and nearly 5,000 last year. "I love clothes and donating to Goodwill," says Zoe. "I had so many quality things and wanted to pass them along in a more personal way."

In November 2006, Zoe was volunteering with her mom at a clothing drive for the Cleveland chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), an organization that serves the community. She learned it didn't have any teen projects, so Zoe decided to create her own. She asked her friend Samantha to join, and the NCJW agreed to mentor them.

Zoe and Samantha accept donations year-round. They store clothes, shoes, accessories and school supplies in Zoe's basement, and have drop-off sites at their homes, school and NCJW. They use monetary contributions to buy new underwear and socks. The sale is always held at a nearby home. It takes a full two days to transport everything, organize merchandise by gender and size, and set up NCJW, which works with foster care agencies and needy families, recommends customers and schedules the appointments. About 15 volunteers keep the "store" organized and act as personal shoppers.

Now high school seniors, Zoe and Samantha are headed to out-of-state universities next year, but they will host the event through college, then hand over the reins to other area students. They both plan to start SWYW events near their colleges, and hope that other teens across the country will establish their own local chapters. "It's not something that just pertains to one town," Zoe says. "There are people in need everywhere, and there are teens willing to help." ●

To make a financial donation, go to ncjwcleveland.org and specify that the gift is for Share What You Wear.

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