

MOBILE MENDERS

Sewing mends the soul



ENDING 2018 WITH A BANG!

Mobile Menders had an amazing 2018. We saw tremendous growth as well as new partnerships with some amazing groups and organizations. Our volunteer base has grown to 260 and continues to climb. Imagine what 2019 will bring!

We ended 2018 with some amazing numbers

- 87 mending events held
- 687 people served
- 1,698 items mended
- 1,814 approx pounds of textiles saved from our landfills
- 260 volunteers
- 21 organizations and groups served

A LOOK BACK AT SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- When Operation Glass Slipper called, Mobile Menders answered and jumped to help out. With over 80 volunteers, we helped hem and do minor alterations on over 135 prom dresses in one day.
- Who can say no to superhero capes and kids? Not us. We held the 2nd Annual Superhero Cape Event at Galiter Community School in October as part of their Fall Festival. Over 150 kids attended and had the opportunity to pick out a cape and mask then decorate them. It was quite the site to see.
- Salvation Army emailed and asked if we could help out and make doll clothes for 48 dolls that were donated for their Toys for Tots program. The dolls came without clothes and they weren't sure what they were going to do. The dolls were distributed to volunteers who made the most gorgeous outfits for the dolls. It was really quite something to see in person.
- We partnered with Ramsey County Fix-It Clinics and helped them hold their first Mend-It Clinic at Roseville Library. It was so exciting to see people lined up 30 minutes before the event started. Just waiting to get their items mended.
- Two pilot programs were launched. The first with Hamline Elementary School. A volunteer goes to the school twice a month for half a day and provides free mending services to the students, families and faculty. The second with Meals on Wheels and West 7th Community Center. 100 mending bags were made with donated fabric and dropped off to be included with the meals when delivered to home bound seniors in the West 7th community. It's off to a good start.
- Mobile Menders founder, Michelle Ooley, was asked to present at the Minnesota State Fair, Eco Experience building on the sustainability stage. She talked about why she started Mobile Menders and the impact it's had since it's inception.
- In December, Mobile Menders was nominated and won the 2018 St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll Award for their continued work in the West 7th community. The awards will be handed out at the end of January.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

"From the Bros at Christ Recovery Center, we thank all of you for your visit and the sewing you did for us. God bless you and your ministry!!! ~ **Union Gospel Mission**

"First thank you so much for the repairs to some of the clothes I like but were unwearable. Second, thank you for being so fun to hang out with.... Third, I'm looking forward to seeing you again. " ~ **HOPE Harbor Resident**

"Thank you Mobile Menders! You really do impact the lives of our clients in more ways than you ever think. You are all such a blessing to us! Thank you so much for changing lives one stitch at a time!" ~ **House of Charity**

"This is one of the sweetest groups of ladies I have ever met! Michelle is nothing short of amazing for starting this wonderful organization! They are not only incredibly generous and kind, but they are all miracle workers with their needles and sewing machines! I would highly recommend seeking them out if you need anything sewn, mended, hemmed, or would just like some great conversation with some wonderful women! So thankful to have discovered Mobile Menders!" ~ **West 7th Resident**

LOOKING FORWARD

As I reflect on this year I'm in awe of the people that I've met this past year. The sheer amount of talent that all the volunteers bring with them to our events is staggering. I learn something new every event I attend. And yes, you are never too old to learn something new.

As the clock ticks ever closer to 2019 I'm even more excited to see what lies in store for Mobile Menders. We will have a board in place, hopefully in January and then filing for our non profit status.

We have some new and exciting partnerships happening in 2019. Anoka County Library, Blaine branch, has asked us to host mending events at their location, expanding it now to two cities in Anoka County. Dow Towers is another location that is needing our services. They are a low income apartment complex in Hopkins, MN. We are expanding our services South of the Twin Cities. Heritage Senior Center in Lakeville, MN is excited to have us come out in January. We will also be doing some work with the Red Lake Nation to help them coordinate a sewing event to help make memory skirts. Later in the year we will be partnering with Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics to help them expand their mending services at their events.

A huge thank you to everyone that has helped out over the past year. The amount of generosity that I've experienced just this year is enough for a lifetime. Thank you!



*I'm looking
forward to the
future and
feeling grateful
for the past.*

Michelle Ooley ~ Founder ~ Mobile Menders