**A New Foster Closet Website**

1. **Introduction**

The Foster Closet is an organization close to my heart. A friend and I started it a few ago and we both currently sit on the Board of Directors. I built the original whatcomfostercloset.org site using a Squarespace template a little over a year ago, just to get something up. There are a variety of things that I would like to change with the current website to assist the volunteer process, aid in the ease of shopping for the first time and provide easier access to information for new families or donors.

1. **Expected List of Features**

* *Embedded Google Map and Possibly Street View*. The location of the closet is a bit challenging to find. This would help new foster families and tangible goods donors find us more easily.
* *Add a New Family Registration Form*. New families are required to register and show DCFS or Tribal placement letters before being allowed to shop with us. As I started this assignment, I noticed that we do not state that on the site, nor do we really have much info for new families. They come not knowing the expectation. This form would allow them to not only provide the required info but also upload a copy of the placement letter for each child, so they don’t have to remember to bring it along.
* *Volunteer Sign-in Form.* We currently track our volunteers via paper sign-in. This would allow them sign-in, record hours, and leave us notes. We would receive them without having to go pick up the paper copies at the closet each time. I may decided to password protect this page and use the top section as a place for us to leave notes for our volunteers. I have not decided on that part yet.
* *Board Member Bios with Photos.* I would like to add a page with 4 columns for board member bios: photo, bio, photo, bio on each row. It would be useful for visitors and donors to put faces with names.
* *PayPal Donate Button.* It is currently just a text link on the give page. Would add visibility and clarity.
* *AmazonSmile Button.* It is currently just a text link on the give page. Would add visibility and clarity.
* *Scrolling photos.* Photos that appear and disappear as you roll past them. Not sure of the actual name but I like that design feel. It is more engaging than the static photos.
* *Large, colorful section markers.* Large, colorful (likely red, blue, yellow, green) section identifiers. 2 and 4 columns on pages to better organize pages. They may contain photos or icons also.

1. **Market Survey**

This was a challenge. I was trying to stay mostly with foster closet sites. What I found was that many around the country have really awful websites. Though there are a handful with really good info and features.

* *http://www.ctk.church/servicetimeslocations/*Not a foster closet, but I have done a lot of work on this site and like the embedded map. Though we don’t have multiple locations. I didn’t find a street view embed.
* *https://www.michiganfostercarecloset.org/shopping-form-new/  
  I really like the layout and functionality of this form. We would only use the first and last sections of it though. We don’t need to track the purchasing like they do. I would change to allow more file uploads. One for each kid up to 6. Most of the fields in they ask for are the same we also need.*
* *https://www.michiganfostercarecloset.org/volunteer-sign-in/  
  I would require the same fields except for the location, as we only have one. This form is nearly identical to what I was thinking.*
* *https://www.michiganfostercarecloset.org/meet-the-board/*

I like the idea and content, as well as the photos but don’t love the layout. I am thinking a grid that makes use of 4 columns on larger screens like below and stacks them on small screens.  
Photo Bio Photo Bio

Photo Bio Photo Bio

* *https://midlandcountyfostercloset.com/*I really like many of the features of this site. The way it is laid out and the way the photos roll/appear. I would like many of the pages to have more of a 2 or 4 column look to them though.
* *https://www.hopesclosetky.com/*I like the large colorful section identifiers like the home page for Hopes Closet.

1. References

* [*http://www.ctk.church/servicetimeslocations/*](http://www.ctk.church/servicetimeslocations/)
* [*https://www.michiganfostercarecloset.org/*](https://www.michiganfostercarecloset.org/)
* [*https://midlandcountyfostercloset.com/*](https://midlandcountyfostercloset.com/)
* [*https://www.hopesclosetky.com/*](https://www.hopesclosetky.com/)
* In addition the above mentioned, I would like to embed the paypal donate button (<https://www.paypal.com/buttons/>) rather than just using a text link. Same for the Amazon Smile link on the give page.