



DESIGN 1

Clutter — conquered

An extreme makeover, for one reader's closet

By MAX GROSS

It took a lot for Donna Vought, 43, to admit that she had a problem.

"I have been disorganized and messy my whole life," she wrote in a heartfelt letter to the New York Post last year. "Help me!"

Specifically, she was talking about a walk-in closet. In what was otherwise a neat and orderly house in White Plains, the closet in Vought's daughters' room was deemed messy enough by the New York Post and the Container Store, a storage solutions mecca in Chelsea, to be worthy of a makeover.

"I remember trying to dig my foot into the closet, so I could stand inside," says Dana Weiss, a stylist who helped with the

makeover. Impeding standing were layers of clothes, toys, comforters and soccer balls.

"You didn't even know what was in there," Vought says.

The Voughts cleared everything out and started sorting. Weiss and a designer from the Container Store installed brackets, shelves and clear containers.

Now the closet is a monument to organization. The family has even begun tackling other house projects (despite the fact that the original closet has a bit of laundry on the floor at the moment).

Vought has even gotten over her initial wariness about winning the title of messiest closet in New York. "You know what?" she says. "It's worth the humiliation... this is a gift."



STREAMLINED: Jenna and Dana Vought's closet (yeechi!) and the return of organization after the makeover. *Sharon Waxman*

