

WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE SERVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Sell good quality used clothing and house wares at bargain prices. We also sell items on line so we can get the highest value for the high quality, many new with tags, items that donors give to us because of the way we handle the donations.

Provide an environment for shoppers and donors that is respectful, honoring the giver as well as the receiver. It is kept clean, organized and uncluttered.

Free bin available outside during store hours and filled daily with items that are usable but not saleable.

Bargain Bucks are available to churches or organizations that request help for their clients. We have collaborated with over 100 organizations, which has multiplied the number of people we have served through those agencies. The **Bargain Bucks** program is a way by which community agencies can provide a quality shopping experience for clients who might not have adequate monetary resources to meet their needs. This makes the transaction a more pleasant experience with more dignity for all concerned. *Since 2005 over \$86,220 worth of Bargain Bucks have been redeemed.*

Employment and training Bargain Box has seven employees who have been trained in a variety of areas (cash register skills, evaluation of items for resale ie. antiques, vintage clothing etc.) Several employees over the past 18 years have been from organizations such as Association for Retarded Citizens, Volunteers Of America- Willow Pond, and Good Shepherd Ministries employment division.

Recycling is an important aspect of the program. We get the goods to where they need to be. Every thing has a place and a purpose. We give things which we cannot use or sell to many different projects: Episcopal Farmworkers Ministries, Salvation Army, as well our own free-bin. Non-saleable and unusable items are sorted and utilized in whatever way possible, buttons are cut off and sold, as are donated hangers. Donated grocery and clothing store bags are reused for our customer's purchases. Unusual, antique, or extremely high end clothing items that aren't appropriate for a thrift store are sold through Ebay, Etsy, consignment stores or on other online sites. *Our goal is to creatively use everything to its highest potential.*

Ecumenical Ministry Bargain Box is sponsored by Church of the Servant, falling under the umbrella of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina and supported by local Episcopal churches in the Cape Fear Deanery. However, we work with a variety of denominations, private charities and government agencies, i.e., Catholic Social Ministry, Zimmer Foundation, UNC-W School of Social Work, New Hanover Dept. of Social Services, Home of Hope, Interfaith Refugee Program and many others.

Community relations Bargain Box works with many non-profit agency requesting assistance, whether it is a church (Catholic Social Ministry), a government agency (NHC Health Dept.), or a Federally Funded program (First in Families) for example. *We have given to date a total of \$104,500.00 to local community organizations through our profit distributions.* In turn, the community also supports us, such as the generous donations from Screen Gems Studios of wardrobe items from the "One Tree Hill" television show.

The Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Newton Grove receives many items regularly from us that help their migrant workers. We have donated over 28 tons of bedding and linens to this ministry since 2005.

The Salvation Army receives clothing that isn't usable for our projects which they can bale and send to third world countries. Since 2005 they have received nearly 70 tons of clothing from us.

Donations are our only source of merchandise. High quality items are generously given from a variety of sources in the community, both individuals and businesses, *an average of 10 donors a day* (some are truckloads).

Volunteering Bargain Box volunteer program allows people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences the opportunity to give back to their community, as well as court ordered community service. The volunteer program also provides a workplace-like experience for at-risk populations interested in rejoining the workforce. We have many UNCW students participating with our program in developing as well as implementing new social media and online sales programs, helping us to update and keep up with the times.

Good Shepherd Ministries receives half of our annual profit distribution for their ongoing ministry. *To date we have given \$59,000.00 to this ministry for the homeless.*

MiniGrants are funded with the other half of our annual profit distribution and may be applied for by non-profit organizations. Following review and approval of the grant applications, *we have given grants to twenty-seven charitable agencies, totaling more than \$45,500.00.*