

# WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE SERVE IN THE COMMUNITY

**Sell** good quality used clothing and house wares at bargain prices.

**Provide** an environment for shoppers and donors that is respectful, honoring the giver as well as the receiver.

**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 91 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 \$27,680 worth of Bargain Bucks have been redeemed.*

**Employment and training** Bargain Box has eight 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 10 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: Farmworkers Ministries, Salvation Army, as well our own free-bin. Non-saleable and unusable items are sorted into a rag bin to sell as rags, 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 items that aren't appropriate for a thrift store are sold through ebay or consignment stores. *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 \$81,000 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. In 2010, we sent more than 2 tons of clothing and 39 boxes of house wares.

**The Salvation Army** receives clothing that isn't usable for our projects which they can bale and send to third world countries. *Approximately 5 tons were donated in 2010.*

**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. The volunteer program also provides a workplace-like experience for at-risk populations interested in rejoining the workforce.

**Good Shepherd Ministries** receives half of our annual profit distribution for their ongoing ministry. *To date we have given \$49,000 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 \$37,000.*