

# Community grows with thrifting

**Kirksville thrift shops donate proceeds to local causes**

BY GRACE FREEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Whether shopping for theme party costumes, satisfying a thrifty sense of style or saving money, many residents have shopped in at least one of Kirksville's second-hand stores — although items might seem the same, the proceeds go toward different causes.

Helping Hands Mission, Foster Families of Adair County, Hidden Treasures and Outreach Mission range from non-profit or charity donation sites to upscale thrift stores simply for assisting in peculiar finds.

Margaret Gregory owns Helping Hands, her third mission store dedicated to community growth. She and a friend opened a shop on Green Street in 2005 before moving to Outreach Mission. Helping Hands now operates as a donation shop, soup kitchen and community gathering place.

"There are a lot of thrift stores, but God gave me the vision for a mission," Gregory said. "He showed me this that there was a great need in this area for help."

Each day Helping Hands receives donations of clothing, furniture and household items, which, are a means for helping the community after the \$1,500 a month rent is paid. Helping Hands gave away more than 300 coats this win-

ter, helped fire victims and served free lunch to about 30 people a day. Gregory said she wants her store to be a place of gathering, so cookies and coffee always are free.

"I have many people call me 'Grandma,' many call me 'Mom,' and I want helping hands to be a gathering place where people can come when they are lonely," Gregory said.

First Liberty also has its meetings twice a week at Helping Hands.

"They didn't have anywhere to meet, so we offered for them to come here," Gregory said.

Volunteers not only donate items, but serve the soup kitchen by bringing sandwiches and fresh vegetables during the spring and summer. People who donate and volunteer show their compassion, which is something this town needs, Gregory said.

A few blocks south, Foster Families of Adair County operates for a more specific charitable cause.

Foster Families of Adair County began during Summer 2010 by Sheila and Ben Jones when they realized they could collect more donations through opening a thrift store.

Foster Families provides for foster children in any way it can. During the past, it has paid for passports for a high school mission trip to Guatemala, prom dresses, beds and basic needs like clothing, Jones said.

Jones said he enjoys working for Foster Families, especially because of the help that they receive from volunteers.

The Jones's have been foster parents for almost 10 years for about



Rose Sparks/Index

**Brookfield, Mo., resident Patricia Cook and Kirksville resident Sherry Bragg browse a rack of clothes Tuesday at the Outreach Mission Store on North Elson Street.**

30 children. Because each situation is different, most of the children have only stayed for up to a year. They adopted a boy five years ago at age 3, Jones said.

"We get donations minute by minute, sometimes," Jones said. "It's not unusual for people to pull up front with a van and pull out 20 bags. The Lord provides for this place."

Outreach Mission, a non-profit organization, takes daily donations from local residents, which volunteer workers process, price and put on out for people to purchase. The money collected is donated to local people in need and used to keep the store running.

"A lot of people come in and need groceries, so instead of just giving them cash, we go buy those and send it to them," store manager Rhonda Casey said.

Outreach Mission also helps by

paying for people to stay at Budget Host Village Inn. Some locals who have just been released from jail or want to start again are given furniture and clothing.

Hidden Treasures is Kirksville's for-profit second-hand store selling people's unneeded household items. With about 3,000 current consignors, the store stays updated through an Excel-like program that logs each item.

Consignors can bring in as many as 25 items in good condition during the first and third weeks of the month, including clothing, furniture or other household goods. Up to two accounts can be opened per household for \$5 each and renewed each year for \$1, store owner Sherry Stacey said.

"A consignor is committing to 60 days" Stacey said. Anything not sold or picked up during the grace period time becomes a property of

the store."

Clothes and other items not sold after 60 days are donated to The Clothes Closet in Edina, Mo. or house fire victims, churches for mission trips and school projects. People with situations similar to these ask for personal donations two to four times a month, Stacey said.

"If you haven't used something in two or three years, you should really consider selling that and buying something you really do need right now," Stacey said.

Consignors earn back 50 percent of the price at which their item is sold. After one month of being in the store, the item is discounted 25 percent and 50 percent after two months. Because of this, shoppers can find better deals, the store can stay updated and consignors will maintain their account, Stacey said.

# Wait increases at health center

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Staff Reporter

Getting into the Student Health Center for her two weekly appointments has been a challenge lately for freshman Samantha Nelson.

Nelson said the health center has been busier the last few weeks and there have been fewer times available for her to receive her semi-weekly blood pressure checks.

The end of February and beginning of March typically is the busiest time of the year for the Student Health Center, said Brenda Higgins, director of the Student Health Center, director of the University Counseling and Disability Services. The last few weeks have lived up to that expectation, she said.

Along with regular visits, the health center has been conducting faculty and staff wellness screenings the past two weeks, Higgins said. Those screenings take about an hour out of the regular student appointment times three days a week.

Higgins said that despite there being one fewer hour for daily appointments, the health center sees about 40 to 55 students a day. The most common reason for visits during the past month has been sore throats and some flu cases, she said.

Students can make appointments online, via phone or in person at the Health Center, Higgins said. The Health Center attempts to get a student in to see a doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours of when the student contacts them. Higgins said in most cases they are able to do that.

"When students tell us it's hard to get



Hanna Bilinski/Index

**Students might have to wait longer for appointments at the University Health Center because of increased demand this time of year.**

in, often times it's because their schedule doesn't mesh with our schedule," Higgins said. "We'll have open appointments but those aren't times when they can come."

Nelson said finding time in her schedule that matches available times at the health center is a challenge. It is especially difficult when she needs to see Jan Corbett, the collaborating physician for the health center, who is in the office only one day a week. Nelson said she has

had to wait as long as two weeks to see Corbett before.

Higgins said if a student is going to have to wait several days for an appointment, the health center might provide those students with the names of local doctors and tell students about the after-hours clinic at Complete Family Medicine on Baltimore Street.

The Adair County Health Clinic is another resource available to students. Clinic supervisor Lori Guffey said the clinic

has a large Truman student clientele. She said the clinic does not have an in-house physician, but it offers STI testing, immunization, blood pressure checks, family planning and other resources.

There are certain cases that the health center will make all efforts to prioritize a student who calls in, Higgins said. Students with chronic illnesses, urinary tract infections or cases involving emergency contraception are prioritized.

"I always tell my clients that if they feel like they haven't gotten an appropriate appointment, just call and ask to speak to a provider," Higgins said.

The health center does not turn away students because of insurance, because it is covered by all types of insurance, Higgins said.

Four percent of students who visit the health center don't have an insurance plan that covers that visit, Higgins said. The health center works with those companies to become covered.

Students who do not have insurance also have affordable options when visiting the health center. Students can purchase a lower-cost, student insurance plan Truman provides, Higgins said. The health center also has a plan that allows for some charges to be written off the bill, she said.

Students with or without insurance are not required to pay at the time of the appointment, Higgins said. After the appointment is run through the insurance company, the remaining charges are billed to the student's account.

"Normally this works out pretty well for students because they are able to come in and not worry about the money end of things," Higgins said.

Not paid for by any candidate but by writer/husband

**STUDENTS AND NEW KIRKSVILLE RESIDENTS:  
TO VOTE IN APRIL 3RD TUESDAY TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION,  
PLEASE REGISTER MARCH 7 AT COURTHOUSE AUTHORITIES**

**KEEP WOMEN ELECTIVELY ON THE COUNCIL WITH DR. BETTY LOUISE MCLANE-ILES**

- 1.) She's qualified and experienced, member of Town Planning and Historic District Preservation Commissions since Spring 2011 and, much earlier, US House of Representatives small rural Business Agriculture Investigative Committees.
- 2.) She's consistently fought for women and children's PETITION rights to object to big business indiscriminate, too general planning permissions; while upholding and wanting genuine people-employing small town businesses!
- 3.) She's the ONLY candidate, took her HALF-THOUSAND vote near miss last April and now, to actually try and reach all the town by posters, Canvass and now Facebook with detailed policies you contribute towards.
- 4.) Her experienced author status (3 books worldwide) and school teacher job-creating professor status has ensured Missouri State teachers, high minimum wage via 2007 Amnesty International hearings. Guys already have 4 out of 5 seats: ENOUGH!
- 5.) Finally, it should be stressed that she is campaigning for both sexes that care about good scrutiny of often stupidly uncosted hand-outs to big business outfits. And she is fighting for things like a Senior Center and both homeless shelters and decent representation of people like low-income workers of both sexes!

Best of all she's my wife (birthday March 15). You can absentee vote until March 30 if you cannot make April 3.

Larry Iles

