

How to Donate

- ☞ Come to Prince of Peace Center during normal business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. (Saturday hours during the summer.)
- ☞ We accept new and gently-used clothing, furniture, and other items in good, usable condition.
- ☞ We can also pick up large donations, such as sofas and bed frames! Call the Center to arrange to be part of our pickup schedule for the day. We ask for a \$10 donation in lieu of a pickup fee, to help underwrite some of our operating costs.



We acknowledge...

...that some persons will visit the store with the intent of purchasing items in order to resell them on eBay, at a flea market, in an antique store, or through other avenues. These items are generally older, perhaps antiques, and can have collectable value in the marketplace. We recognize that these items have value, and we expect in turn to receive a fair purchase price from anyone wishing to buy them; it helps to defer the cost of keeping the store open. If we can reduce the costs associated with operating the store through the sale of items that have more significant value, then we are able to focus on helping even more people gain support through our Emergency Services programs.

That is not to say that we do not provide assistance when necessary. For example, if a person *needs* a clock to be able to wake up for work, get his children to bed, and get them to school on time, then we will insure that that individual obtains a clock. However, that clock does not *have* to be the one that we have priced at \$50, knowing it is an antique mantle clock with a projected value of \$100; it is unlikely that someone in true need will arrive at the store demanding one specific item of a type, especially if we have several available at varying prices. This same example can be applied to dishes, tea sets, vases, and other decorative items.

Our donors *trust* that we will use their generous donations to help as many people as we can. We strive to put every item to use in the best way possible, and we do *not* turn away people in need. If and when the Center staff determines the best use of an item is to be sold at fair market value, it is a decision made with the best interests of the Center and the community we serve at heart.

Mission Thrift Store

Prince of Peace Center

Dedicated to giving people a hand up, not a handout.





Our Services:

There are folks visiting us each day in legitimate financial crises with any variety of needs, from food and bedding to utility support or housing. We will often **give** items to these persons from the Mission Thrift Store at no cost; we are glad to be able to aid them in meeting some of their needs in a manner that offers both *dignity* and *choice*. These gifts occur only after a person presents those needs through completion of an Emergency Services application and subsequent assessment by our qualified Emergency Services Case Manager.

We also place out **free items** outside the Center each Wednesday, as we lack space and want to meet the needs of as many people as possible. While many take items from those tables, the key persons we hope would take advantage of that opportunity are those whose needs will be best met through use of the items.

We hold **\$2.00 bag days** each month to allow struggling individuals to purchase items they need at fair and accommodating prices. Our belief is that these buyers can meet those pressing needs in a cost-conscious way, and then apply the monies they may have saved toward their utility bills, etc. In this way a person can spend his or her money twice!

Why a "Mission" Thrift Store?

Each week, many individuals intending to help the poor and marginalized in the Shenango Valley choose to donate items to Prince of Peace Center. These donors **trust** that Center staff members will determine the best manner in which to use their gifts. Their inherent trust gives us the latitude to determine how we use, distribute, or dispose of their items.

Though we offer very fair prices for the donated items that we choose to sell, **we operate the store at an approximate loss of \$25,000 per year.** Costs such as operational building overhead, storage, staff salaries, and truck expenses consistently exceed our sales by that amount. This is one of the reasons we are termed a "mission" thrift store; any business focused solely on sales, and operating at a loss that great, would have been closed long ago!



Expected Store Behavior

All persons that enter the store are on camera and should be aware:

✎ That *you* are responsible for *your* words and actions.

✎ That you may be asked to leave the store if you do any of the following:

- ✎ Steal
- ✎ Become loud and argumentative
- ✎ Swear or use God's name in vain.
- ✎ Engage in verbal, physical, or sexual assault.
- ✎ Use racial and/or discriminatory language.
- ✎ Mistreat children.

✎ That we can call the police for support when warranted, to remove offenders.

✎ **That we strive to maintain an environment of mutual respect.**

✎ That as long as you show respect, **you are always welcome here.**

"And they asked him, '...When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ... And he replied, 'Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did also for me.'"

Matthew 25: 37-40