



Miracle Hill
MINISTRIES



Miracle Hill's thrift operation invites donors and shoppers to "Be the Bridge" to hope

By Rebecca Howerton
Contributing writer

Miracle Hill's eight area thrift stores and its automobile donation program make it easy for donors and shoppers to be charitable, frugal, and environmentally responsible—all while having fun hunting for bargains. Thrift store operations not only contribute approximately 14 percent of the ministry's operating budget, they also create jobs in the community, and last year kept over 2.6 million pounds of clothing from local landfills.

"We provide a place for people to donate items from clothing and household furnishings to automobiles, which are then turned into cash to support the ministry," said Skip Andersen, vice president of thrift operations. "It also offers an opportunity for folks who have been through our programs to work in our stores or in the warehouse, get them back into the routine of productivity and responsibility."

Income from sales of donated items support ministries such as addiction-recovery programs and homeless shelters in Greenville, Pickens, Spartanburg, and Cherokee Counties. Miracle Hill also helps recruit, train, and support foster families to provide a bridge to a stable family life for children in foster care. Donations and purchases become an investment in the lives of people in the Upstate.

Parents can enjoy tax-free, back-to-school shopping every day in Miracle Hill's stores, and the selection is constantly changing, Andersen said. "The selection always surprises me; items are rarely in the store over five weeks," he said. "People find great bargains, and 80 percent of shoppers who go into a store go back again. Everything is clean and organized, so it's easy to find what you're looking for."

Greenville area store locations include Pete Hollis Boulevard, Pleasantburg Drive at Faris Road (near Greenville Tech), and Wade Hampton Boulevard near Taylors, as well as stores in Mauldin, Greer, and Travelers Rest. Miracle Hill also has thrift stores in Spartanburg and Easley, and five of its locations have boutiques.

John Fiedler, director of sales and sourcing, said donations from individuals and businesses are central to Miracle Hill's ability to continue bringing hope to people in challenging circumstances. "Without donations, we wouldn't be able to operate," he said. "We've been blessed with a wonderful, generous community."

For a complete list of thrift stores and donation box locations, or to schedule a donation pick-up online, visit www.MiracleHill.org, or call 864-242-6931. Like Miracle Hill on facebook: www.facebook.com/MiracleHill, www.facebook.com/MiracleHillThriftStores.