



“But I don’t want my clothes to be sold in the thrift store...”

Often we are asked that gifts-in-kind not be “sold” in the Mission’s Thrift Store. Some items can be used directly in the ministry of the Rescue Mission and every effort is made to secure those items as they arrive at the Thrift Store which is our central location for receipt of all non-perishable gifts.

After years of experience, we have come to believe that the best way to get the things poor people need and want to them efficiently and “gracefully” is to put all non-perishable items in the Thrift Store. We then issue “vouchers” so that the poor and the affluent each have an opportunity to get the items they want.

This means that we do not have control over what is given away and what is sold on any given day. It also means that the poor are treated with the same respect and service as the affluent and that it allows for personal choice and dignity to be kept in tact.

It should be noted that items that are sold still benefit the poor in that the revenue earned becomes part of the operating budget for the Mission shelters. The operating budget provides items that are not donated such as prescriptions, special sizes in clothing and shoes, bus passes, etc.

This thrift store central receiving and distribution system means that items are constantly moving and storage and distribution problems are kept to a minimum, thus making the system extremely efficient and economical to operate. *(How many times have churches started a clothes closet in the church and several years later closed it because instead of a system with good used clothes being available to those who needed them, the closet became stuffed with items that no one could access?)*

The Rescue Mission is grateful to its faithful supporters who for more than half a century have funded and supported with gifts-in-kind and volunteer hours, an ever expanding Christian ministry to alleviate human suffering in the name of Jesus.

Our programs are open to all people in need regardless of their ethnicity, race or religion. Our basic survival ministries of food, clothing and shelter are available to anyone in need. Our medical services are available to anyone who is not insured and is “homeless.” Our recovery program services are available without charge to anyone who is uninsured and without funds. *(People with an income who which to participate in our recovery program are required to pay a daily fee based on a sliding scale so that their assets do not become a hindrance to their recovery progress. We have learned from experience that access to extra money and addiction are a recipe for relapse.)*

So, we are very grateful to accept your gift of donated items and we promise to use them in the best way possible to secure what is needed for those we serve.