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Volunteers decide who gets thrift shop profits

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Volunteer Douglas Marshall-Steele stocks the book shelves at All Saints Parish Thrift Shop, located at 20673 Coastal Highway in the Rehoboth Beach Plaza. / CHUCK SNYDER/DELAWARE COAST PRESS

Written by
Jon Bleiweis
Staff Writer

REHOBOTH BEACH -- When All Saints Parish Thrift Shop makes money, it could be any one of more than 60 people who decide where the profits go.

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The shop started in the basement of All Saints Episcopal Church on Olive Street in 1994. Since then, it has moved to a location at the Rehoboth Beach Plaza.

The store has been managed by Richard Faull since 2008, and he said there are approximately 60 volunteers who work a little as three hours a month or as many as 35 hours per week to help operate the store.

"That's what everybody is here for, to help the less fortunate in the community," he said.

FYI "They know they can help by working here."

All Saints Parish Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through

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Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.
Donations are accepted during business hours. To speak with a volunteer, call 302-226-3123.

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The shop is owned by All Saints Episcopal Church, but that's not where the proceeds go.

At the end of the month, the receipts are added up and Faull randomly selects names of volunteers who get the opportunity to donate a share of the profits to the charity of their choice.

"It does a lot of good," said volunteer Jerry Sipes. "A lot of people come to us for donations, but all our donations ... are through the volunteers."

Among the groups that have benefited are the Cape Crusaders, Meals on Wheels, the MS Society, the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer

Fire Company and the church's nondiscretionary fund.

"It's great," said volunteer Joseph Cascio, who has given his time about twice a month at the store for the last year and a half. "You're actively working and volunteering, but you're also playing a role in seeing where the money goes back into the community."

In June, 25 volunteers donated \$750 to the charity of their choice. Last year, approximately \$193,000 was put back into the community.

"I don't think there are too many volunteer jobs where you get this kind of perk," said Marge Cintavey, who has volunteered at the shop for three years. "I think it's very unique."

Sipes said one of his favorite parts of the gig is when he gets to see what comes through the door.

"A lot of the times, the outlets will send boxes of brand-new clothes that we sell for \$5," he said. "You can get some really good deals."

In March, the shop expanded by 6,000 square feet, making it a 16,000-square-foot facility.

"It means we can support more charities and support the homeless by giving them free furniture and clothing and whatever their needs happen to be," said volunteer Lynn Kaplan.

Kaplan said volunteers also help people in need, whether it's the homeless, single mothers or abused individuals.

"It's more than just volunteering to me," she said. "I feel like I am issuing help to people."

Cascio said volunteering at the shop is a rewarding experience, and he's not the only one who benefits.

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"It's a good gift to the community," he said.

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