



# VIEW

## OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

*"Thank you for shopping with us...because of your purchase today, we can help a neighbor in need."*

— Heather Loomis, Manager, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, La Pine

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Heather Loomis is the manager of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, located at 51661 Huntington Road in La Pine. The store employs 12 people, and has a volunteer base of about 16 people, which means that the Thrift Store is even more efficiently run than in the past.

"Our store is now much cleaner and better organized," said Heather, "mostly due to our large volunteer base. Each day we sort,

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***"One of the items we don't sell much of is glassware — which is one of our most-donated items!"***

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clean, price and display what we can sell. The rest goes to recycling."

But the Thrift Store is only one part of St. Vincent de Paul's operation in La Pine. "We also have a Social Services division, located at 51484 Morson Street," said Heather, "and that's where people can see the result of their Thrift Store purchases being put to use. After accounting for our overhead and paying our employees, the rest of the money we make through sales goes to fund Social Services."

Heather continued, "at our Social Services building, those in need can access our Food Bank, open Monday - Thursday from 9am to noon, and 1pm to 3pm, where food boxes are handed out. They can also get help with paying their Midstate Electric bill through our Energy Assistance Program; get help paying for their prescriptions, obtain personal hygiene items, and get a voucher for a shower. We also give out propane

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***"Our furniture donations are plentiful, and we're getting some really nice pieces donated. People are more willing to pay a good price for them, too."***

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vouchers to help with heating bills. Social Services only has one paid employee, with the other 12 being volunteers. All the services they offer have been made possible through NeighborImpact."

I asked Heather what customers come into the Thrift Store looking for most often.

"It just depends on the day," she replied. "One day it's furniture, another day it might be books or clothing. We might not have a wheelchair today, but come back tomorrow and we might have three! One of the items we don't sell much of is glassware, which also happens to be one of our most-donated items!"

Heather says that she wants the public to understand that some days they simply can't take any more donations. "Sometimes people get angry when they can't drop off items, but they should feel free to come in and volunteer their time so they can see the process we go through each day."

Another aspect of the impact that St. Vincent de Paul has on the community is the aid they give to our homeless population.

"We send sleeping bags over to Social Services to keep people warm when they're living out in the woods," says Heather. "It doesn't matter if the zipper is broken; these bags are needed. And everyday



Heather Loomis, Manager, La Pine St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

things like can openers, pots and pans, and personal hygiene items are always in demand by our homeless population."

As the weather gets warmer, St. Vincent de Paul will be bringing out their outdoor inventory to the parking lot to display.

"Our furniture donations are plentiful," said Heather. "We're getting some really nice pieces donated, and people are more willing to pay a good price for them, too."

If you would like to donate items to St. Vincent de Paul, their donation hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10am until full. They have pickup and delivery service on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and their Thrift Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Call them at 541-536-1956 and see for yourself what this store has to offer!

— Annette Langenstein  
Wise Buys Staff Writer