

Thrifting a force for good



Longtime employee Brandi Rauen sets up a display of donated Christmas decorations for sale. The store also provides job training through Northwest Center, a nonprofit based in Washington that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The Priest River Community Church thrift store remains busy, especially during the holidays. Proceeds from the thrift store help pay the wages of the eight employees who work there, as well as local and foreign missions, the Priest River Food Bank and various church projects. The church itself served as a cooling center during last summer's record-breaking heat wave and a shelter during the Pioneer Fire in July.

All photos by Sophia Aldous.



Volunteer Janet Browning bundles towels. The store also depends on some 24 volunteers along with the employees in order to process donations and keep the store open six days a week (closed on Sundays).



Thrift store manager Dee Denney smiles next to a mountain of donations in the thrift store's receiving area.





Dee Denney (left), Lauren VanHoutan (center) and Janet Browning take a quick break from sorting and cleaning donations for the thrift store. "We're very thankful that the community has supported this store for over 50 years," Denney said.



Volunteer Lauren VanHoutan sorts through clothing donations. The store has a washer and dryer to dean clothes, but clean, gently used donations are appreciated

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