



S O R O P T I M I S T[®]

Investing in Dreams

Thrift Haus News

Happy Fall from The Thrift Haus

Things have been very busy at the Thrift Haus over the past 3½ months. We have seen many changes, both large and small and have quite a few still on our docket. Most of you know about our partnership with Flathead Industries for our recyclable materials.

We'd like to share with you that it is going exceedingly well both in terms of caring for our excess items but also in contributing to our organizations' international mission goals. All of our excess/recyclable clothing, shoes and purse items are being joined with FHI's and are baled/compressed into 1000lb cubes and sent to India and China for distribution to various needs from that point.

Other changes within the Thrift Haus reflect safety concerns, (smoke detectors, surge protectors, fire extinguishers, first aid cabinet, etc.). These small changes as well as some organizational changes all work to enhance our safety profile for our Members/Volunteers/Customers and our insurance purposes.

The "Black Bag" room has been transformed into an organized Storage Room. Our continued goals and projects that are in the "works" are a roof extension over the outside donation area that will provide an increased safety factor for our back entrance and weather protection for our donations.

The City has approved a bike rack for our front parking area that will be implemented in the Spring. We are working on various configurations to improve the workability of the Sorting Room with a new larger sorting table, a "containment" system for the donations yet to be sorted and a "communication/coffee/snack" area as well as an area for the days workers to house their purses, etc.

If any of you that utilize the Sorting Room have any ideas/suggestions that you would like to share, the THC would appreciate hearing from you. Also, please remember that your ideas and suggestions are always encouraged and welcomed in regard to the Thrift Haus and its operation, contact any member of the committee and share your thoughts.

Items to Remember: The new entry code went into effect on 9-15-19 as well as the hours of all operations for the Shop (8am to 8pm)

It is imperative for our Safety Profile that the **FLOORS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SHOP REMAIN CLEAR OF ANY MERCHANDISE/OBJECTS.**

Our aim at the Shop is to foster an atmosphere of Respect and Courtesy - PLEASE make sure that you leave the Shop at the end of your time there as you would like to walk into it at the start of your "work" shift . . . This is so vital to the well-being of each of us as Volunteers, we deserve to feel that our work matters and is respected and appreciated.

Lastly and most important - You ARE Important, Valued and Respected and You are so very much appreciated for what you contribute to the Thrift Haus on behalf of our organization.

THANK YOU - Sue J, Kathy, Alana, Jill, Jacky, Sue P, Grace and Linda



Meet LYD - Renee Colliander

For Renee Colliander, the Live Your Dream helped her achieve her goal of becoming a radiology technician.



The Kalispell resident was living in Polson, working there, and attending school part-time at Flathead Valley Community College, when she applied and received the award. One of the great things about the award, she noted, is that the money isn't limited to tuition and books. She applied her award to the cost of her books, which were very expensive, incidentals' and food money.

At the time, she had two young children who were not in school yet.

Later, the mom of three, moved closer to FVCC and attended full-time. She finished school this past May after a four year journey to accomplish her goal.

Renee, who is a native of Oregon, said if anyone is interested in applying of the award, they should. The hardest thing, for her, may have been asking two people for a letter of recommendation. But she found that her references were very happy to help her and thought nothing of it.

If you want to apply she said, "just do do it!"

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Dawn Cope - Secretary, SI Whitefish

Most of us know Dawn Cope as the good-natured, laid-back secretary of our club, who dutifully takes the minutes at every meeting. And many know she's a "regular" with the Friday crew at the Whitefish Thrift Haus. But beyond the skills she shares with our club is a lifetime of teaching, singing, painting — and so much more.



Dawn and her husband, Randy Carspecken, who have been together 44 years and are both Wisconsin natives, first moved to Whitefish in 1975. Drawn by the beautiful outdoors, they worked at the ski resort on Big Mountain for a while, then headed to Bozeman where Dawn earned her teaching degree from Montana State University.

Her teaching experience has included some interesting jobs, such as teaching chemistry at Blackfeet Community College in Browning and a stint as a Chapter 1 teacher at Muldown Elementary in Whitefish.

Dawn and Randy, who was also a teacher, expanded their careers in education when they headed overseas for international teaching assignments in Micronesia, Turkey and Thailand for a total of 10 years. Dawn was an art teacher. The couple finished up their careers on Cape Cod back in the states, where Dawn taught art at an International Baccalaureate school. They moved back to Whitefish five years ago and both Dawn and Randy are members of the Crown of the Continent Choir. Dawn and Randy sang with other choirs previous to that.

Dawn is an avid recycler and that's what initially drew her to the Thrift Haus, where recycling is the name of the game. "I had time and I wanted to volunteer," she recalled. "I'm very environmentally oriented, and anything that is good for women is good for the environment."

Thank you Dawn, for sharing your skills with SI of Whitefish! We appreciate your hard work.