

Colleen's Contemplations – March 2011

Do you know what I like most about WNC? I like that it is not just about getting stuff into the hands of people who need it. We take pride in what we provide. You are not going to find stained items, or torn items, or circa 1978 items. Many items are donated with the tags still on.

I've heard said "people without, should just be happy to have anything at all" and to some extent I might agree with that. But if it's something I would not want to give to my own child, why would I give it to someone else's? It sort of goes back to my yearly diatribe: "Whose used underwear would you wear?"

On our volunteer/donation days (the blue ones on the calendar), we spend a lot of time cleaning, sorting, and constantly creating a place that anyone would be proud to shop in. We're picky! We have a certain way we hang items and we have certain hangers we use to keep the racks looking nice. We like the place to look, smell, and be clean. If items that are otherwise nice come in dirty, we have a volunteer who washes them. If a piece of furniture comes in a bit abused, we have a volunteer who gives it some TLC before it goes out on the floor. We even have a volunteer who laminates nicer looking labels and signs for our shelves.

So how does it all payoff? When a new client comes in the door, and we get to say, "All this was given and sorted for you, to help make your life a little easier. Take whatever you need, absolutely free." I love my job.

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WNC Store Manager

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