

Eighty volunteers keep thrift shop caring and sharing

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Care & Share under the Ten Thousand Villages banner.

The two residents found success because they presented the thrift shop as being for everyone, not just those looking to economize, Ms Reesor said, and it was a way for people to recycle their used items.

The store rapidly became a success, growing in its operations every year.

"We were amazed and so gratified by how the community would come to us," Ms Reesor said.

Both she and Ms Steiner retired from the day-to-day

operations of the store in 1992. Ms Reesor has been on the store's board of directors for the past six years while her sister was thrift shop co-ordinator for Ontario for three years in the late 1990s.

Now the store's operations have grown to where about 80 volunteers, mostly from Stouffville, and some from Markham and Unionville, are needed to keep things humming.

Nine volunteers have been there since the store first opened 25 years ago.

Long-time volunteer Luella Lewis, who was busy in the quilt room at the back of the store Tuesday morn-

ing, also leads school children's workshops, which are open to all the Grade 5 students in the community.

Bettyanne Pajot, who was also working on a quilt, noted that in addition to the volunteers coming to the store, there are many people in the community who help out by sewing, repairing items and doing other jobs.

She volunteers at the Care & Share along with her husband, Ron, who checks out the small electrical appliances that come into

the store. And the donations just keep on coming in, giving

The store has received items such as designer men's suits, 60 ties from one person, collector dolls, fine china

store employees a good glimpse into when it's closet-cleaning-out time in

Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"We will never have enough room," store manager Elna Coetsee observed, "because it is always growing."

"We have fur coats to strollers," she added, with a chuckle.

The store has received items such as designer men's suits, 60 ties from one person, collector dolls, fine china — and some baffling objects.

If too much clothing or other items come into the store, they are donated to

other charities, such as the Canadian Diabetes Society or the Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation.

Twice a year, the store holds a silent auction to raise extra money. Quilts made at the store are sold during the annual quilt sale at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. This year, about \$5,500 was raised.

The Care & Share Thrift is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and is open on Friday until 8 p.m. The store can be reached at 905-640-1410.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Ron Pajot looks after checking all mechanical and electronic devices donated to the Care & Share. He is one of 80 volunteers that help make the shop run.

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