

Simply Green



The Once Around Shop Helps the Community & the Environment!

The Graceworks Lutheran Once Around Shop at 113 S. Cherry St. in Eaton has been in Preble County for over 25 years. Many Preble County residents know about this non-profit organization and what they do as far as providing local emergency assistance programs to residents throughout the county. But there are still some people in the county that do not know about the Once Around Shop or do not utilize their services, donate items or shop at the store. The Once Around Shop and Preble County Emergency Assistance program supports three programs: the food pantry that provides food to residents in the Eaton Community School district, clothing give-away which provides clothing to individuals who have an emergency need for

clothing, and the financial assistance program which helps people pay bills such as rent, utility, and medical needs to promote self-sufficiency. The organization even helps get needed school supplies to local children in September. The retail thrift store in the building takes donations of quality and gently used items which is the primary source of monies that the organization uses to finance their local assistance programs. Volunteers are often needed to help accept, process, price and sell the donations. Items that are currently being accepted for donation are: clothing, household items (dishes, knickknacks, holiday items, art), linens and craft items, shoes, jewelry, belts, scarves, hats & gloves, and books, CDs/DVDs/VHS. Items that can't be accepted are: ripped or stained items, luggage, encyclopedia or textbooks, large

furniture or appliances, electrical items, broken or incomplete toys/games, or items that have been stored in a barn, garage, or basement for a long period of time. Donation hours are M-W and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Closed Thursdays). Store hours are M-W and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (Closed Thursdays). For questions or inquiries about the services of the Once Around Shop call 937-456-6560. I had the pleasure of interviewing store manager Jenny McCarty and she said, "The Once Around is not just for the financially disadvantaged but it is also for people who just want to help their neighbors in need. Shopping at the Once Around benefits all Preble County residents and helps to provide much needed programs for individuals who are experiencing tough times. The organization does get some grant funding but need outpaces revenue. That's why shopping and donating at the Once Around is important."

Donations of gently used household items help to support much needed local assistance programs in Preble County.

Donations of plastic grocery bags are needed by the Once Around to put customers' purchases in.

Remember to use the 3R's to keep reusable items from going to the landfill unnecessarily: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!