

Exploring Asylum Hill – AHCC Thrift Shop

For anyone driving down Asylum Ave it would be difficult to miss the magnificent brownstone church at Huntington St with it's stately steeple and clock, but you could be forgiven if you didn't notice the little white sign with the red border at the driveway that's only there for a few hours Friday morning. That sign announces to the neighborhood and beyond that the AHCC Thrift Shop is open.

And it's been open most every Friday since the Rev. James Kidd's wife Joan and another lady from the Church first got the idea. As you might imagine it started small, much smaller than it is today, and it's grown, a lot. The Shop serves two main functions, it provides a wide assortment of useful items at very reasonable prices for people in the neighborhood, and the money raised goes to help women and children, many also in the neighborhood.

Everything donated comes from the members of the Church, and the volunteers spend time on Wednesday and Thursday sorting through the weeks donations in preparation for Friday. Despite the brisk business that the shop does selling everything from clothes for women, children and also men, housewares, books & cds as well as jewelry and framed art, there is a storage area full of more items to keep the shelves and racks full. And of course there are lots of seasonal items just waiting for the right time to be brought out.

If the variety and quality of the merchandise and the very low prices weren't enough of a draw, you should come just to meet the friendly staff. Some of them have been volunteering for more than a decade, and they think of their customers, especially the regular ones as friends.

for more information go to

<http://www.ahcc.org/thrift-shop> and for more photos go to <http://tinyurl.com/o3ssedr>

