



## ***Mercer Island Thrift Shop Donation Policy (August 2014)***

*At the Mercer Island Thrift Shop, raising money  
means turning down unsellable or unusable donations*

Following the lead of other major businesses in the thrift industry, such as Goodwill, Mercer Island Thrift Shop will now accept only those items that can be sold in the Thrift Shop or sold in bulk to other recycling endeavors and wholesalers.

The mission of the Thrift Shop is to raise money through sales of your donated items to support the programs of Mercer Island Youth & Family Services; each year Thrift Shop revenues add almost \$750,000 to the MIYFS budget.

Most of what is donated goes to good use. However, the unusable and unsellable items have started costing the Thrift Shop thousands of dollars for disposal – money better spent on programs and services for youth, families and seniors of our community. Over the last two years, Thrift Shop waste volumes have risen 91%, a total of 238 tons – these are donations that are neither usable nor acceptable by other donation centers.

The Thrift Shop management knows this is a big change, and understands donors want to do the right thing for Mercer Island. It is always hard to say “no thank you” to a donation – please understand the underlying reason is for the good of serving our community.

Here’s how the new policy will work:

1. A donation attendant will meet you at your vehicle and greet you with a warm “Welcome to the Thrift Shop.”
2. Your attendant will quickly help you unload the items that can be sold inside the store or in bulk.
3. Your attendant will then provide resource information which may help you determine the most responsible outlet for the items we can no longer accept.
4. Most importantly, we will thank you and offer you a tax deductible receipt for your donations.

*Please contact Suzanne Philen, Thrift Shop Coordinator, with any questions about these policies at (206) 275-7760*

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