

# ReNew

ReNew Consignment & Thrift  
and ReNew Ministries

201 S Sangamon  
Lincoln, IL

(217) 605-0495

Hours:

Mon-thurs: 10 am-5 pm

Fri: 10-6:30, Sat 10-4

Spring 2017

Investing needed resources in the lives of our neighbors.

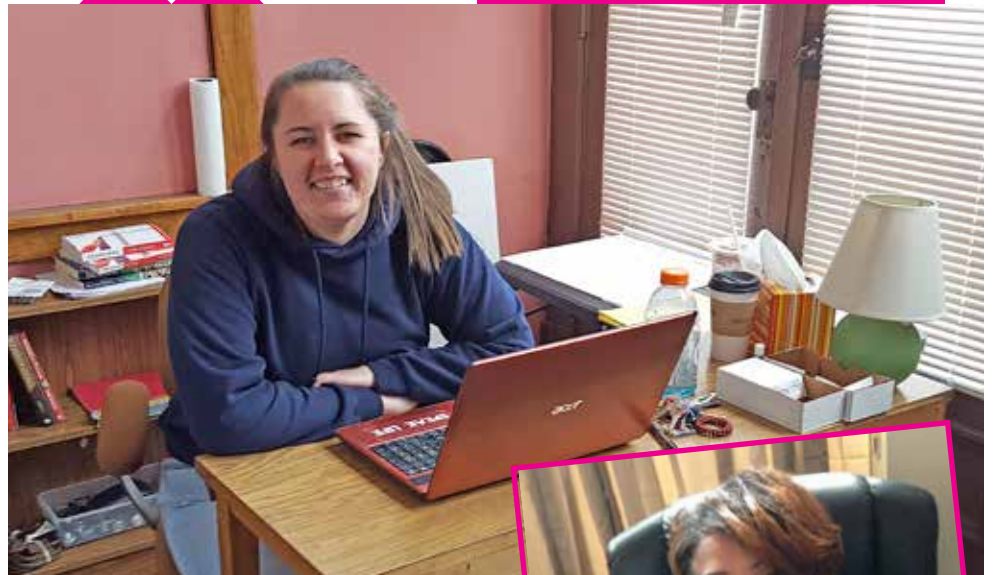
## SETTLING IN TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

When a ministry sets up shop in a new neighborhood there's so much to do! When that ministry isn't following a template, but is experimenting with a new idea for how to be of service, well, it's hectic to say the least. We've met most of you on the fly, but we haven't really sat down together.

Now that we're unpacked and settled in, allow us to introduce ourselves. We are ReNew Ministries and our base of operations is the ReNew Consignment & Thrift store in Lincoln, Illinois.

Not only do we want to be the best neighbors we can possibly be—that's the only reason we are here! We aren't taking a profit or funneling funds out of the community. We are investing in the people of Logan County and the surrounding area.

In our first busy year, store manager Bobbi Reddix (lower right) and Donna Lomelino as ministry director took the concept of a thrift store/ministry hybrid and



made it a reality (see our list of programs on page 3). Along the way, they succeeded in meeting our early ministry goals as outlined on page 2.

In February, Brie Higginson (above) stepped into the ministry director role. A recent graduate

(continued on page 2)



[www.ReNewThrift.org](http://www.ReNewThrift.org)



## SETTLING (cont.)

of Lincoln Christian University, Brie has experience in many types of Christian service. When it came time to pick a direction, she followed her father, Jeff Higginson, into homeless ministry at Inner City Mission of Springfield (our parent non-profit). With a unique set of skills and a heart for service, Brie was ICM's choice to work with Bobbi so ReNew Consignment & Thrift continues to bless the community it sits in.

"My role is to really focus on the ministry," Brie explains. "My time will go to the volunteer coordinator role, scheduling and organizing, while developing relationships with people so we know how to best invest in them.

"Most ministry programs focus on a specific service that is available to whoever is able to take advantage of that service. At ReNew, we start with the person and work to determine what is needed in their life—what it is that will bless the person going forward."

"ReNew is perfect for community service hours and TANF hours," Brie says, "because we not only take care to meet the state's guidelines, we embrace the responsibility that comes with being put in authority over someone. We come alongside people, and if they're amenable, we'll work with them beyond their mandated commitment to better their life-circumstances."

*Stability for Life* is the program ReNew Ministries offers to persons who volunteer at the store 20 hours a week or more through one of the listed programs, or who work at the store for pay. This case-management system was developed at Inner City Mission to free persons from the cycle of homelessness. It has been adapted for use with the community at large. It focuses on 7 critical areas of a person's life: spirituality, relationships, self-concept, health, work/education, addictions, and finances.

## BOBBI SPEAKS

First, I want to say a word of thanks to our first ministry director, Donna Lomelino. She was tasked with helping get this operation off the ground and we became friends like sisters.

Moving forward, I am excited to be working with Brienna Higginson! Brie didn't know God would lead her to ReNew Ministries, but we're glad to have her. Her gifts and education are a blessing to this ministry.

Now that Brie is here, my primary responsibility is the store as opposed to the ministry, but I do get involved in the ministry. It is a tremendous feeling to be able to help someone, even if it's through something as simple as helping a community service client learn a new skill, or giving away clothing to someone struggling to make ends meet.

A word about expenses that I wanted to share with those who might consider a financial donation to this ministry: All the volunteers you find here might lead you to believe we are spared the expanse of staffing. Actually, staffing is our biggest expense, because every volunteer requires some level of supervision and training—that's part of our investment into the community.

And as always I want to encourage you that shopping at ReNew Consignment & Thrift is itself an investment into the community, as you purchases assist in financing benevolence.



## \$30,000 PLEDGE

Our goal for 2016, our first full year, was to distribute 30,000 in benevolence in the Lincoln/Logan County area. God blessed us with the ability to surpass that. Here is the breakdown:

<b>FOOD</b> (food baskets, groceries for the impoverished, etc.)	<b>\$ 2,376.16</b>
<b>RENT / UTILITIES</b> (payments made for those in need. ReNew does not give out cash)	<b>\$3,876.09</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION / MISCELLANEOUS</b> (gas-station fill-ups, rides, etc.)	<b>\$1,634.00</b>
<b>STABILITY COACHING</b> (pay for coaches/supervisors)	<b>\$15,055.00</b>
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS / CLOTHING</b> (store items given to those who can't pay)	<b>\$10,478.23</b>
<b>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS</b> (funds for organizations that provide specific services to the community)	<b>\$6,997.00</b>

**TOTAL 2016 DISTRIBUTION: \$40,416.55**

# RENEW MINISTRIES' ACTIVE PROGRAMS

## CHURCH BENEVOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Most churches have their own benevolence applications on file. Good stewardship of church resources requires making an effort to assure the money is used appropriately, but that can be a time-consuming chore.

Churches now have the option of sending the person requesting assistance to ReNew to complete an agreed upon number of service hours. Willingness to participate in the program signals the person is sincere about their needs, and exposes them to a Christian environment where they will be encouraged to look for long-term solutions to their issues.

At the completion of the service hours the applicant returns to the church with a letter of completion and the church releases available funds as they see fit.

## CHURCH CONSIGNMENT PROGRAM

This account falls under the same guidelines as individual consignment accounts, however any member of the participating church may donate items. Those sales are tracked and credited back to the church account.

## MATERIAL DONATIONS

Often we receive requests from organizations within the community for assistance in providing basic goods for their clients. We have received requests from churches, state agencies, schools, and nursing homes. If we have the items needed in stock or are able to procure them, we donate the items to that organization.

## WORK VOUCHER PROGRAM

This is our effort to encourage people seeking assistance from ReNew Ministries to invest in themselves. When members of the community approach us unable to pay for store items or in need of financial help, we offer several options:

1. We may lower the price of a particular item to what they can pay, depending on need.
2. The person may volunteer work hours equivalent to the value of the items needed (allowing us time to look for other ways we may be of assistance).

3. When assistance with utilities is needed, clients are given an option to repay payments made on their behalf or work hours equivalent to the value of the payment.

## TANF

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is a federally funded program run by the state. They provide limited cash assistance to extremely low income parents and their children. There is a requirement that adult recipients work or participate in a "welfare to work" program. ReNew is an approved work site for TANF.

## COURT ORDERED COMMUNITY SERVICE

In this type of alternative sentence, a judge orders a criminal offender to perform work on behalf of the community in exchange for a complete or partial reduction of fines and/or incarceration. ReNew is an approved site for persons needing community service, and a Christian influence during their time with us.

## EMPLOYEE STABILITY PROGRAM

Persons working at least 20 hours weekly at ReNew (paid or volunteer) are expected to participate in our Stability Program. This relationship-based program encourages growth, helping participants to overcome not just the circumstances of poverty, but the behaviors and attitudes that lead to it.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

Civic or religious organizations or individuals seeking opportunities to volunteer often have trouble finding suitable programs. We can put these volunteers to good use in a Christian environment. "Youth in Action" is a volunteer option for parents who want their children to learn the value of work in a safe environment.

## EMERGENCY GIVEAWAY

When a family is faced with an emergency such as a fire, ReNew will donate store items to help them get back on their feet.

# THREE KEYS TO MINISTRY

They say the three keys to picking real estate are *location, location, and location*. The three keys to a stable life, as you see throughout the Bible, are *relationship, relationship, and relationship*. Our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with other people determines the joy we have in life and whether we are a blessing to others or a burden.

It stands to reason that people—the body of Christ—are indispensable to any ministry.

We want to recognize and commend the employees and volunteers of ReNew Consignment & Thrift. Part of the investment they are making into their own growth is to shine with the love of God so others are blessed and encouraged. They accomplish this while keeping the store freshly stocked and artfully displayed.



“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

## CONSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

We currently consign clothing and furniture. All items consigned must be clean and in good repair. Furniture items are accepted only when space allows, so we ask that you call in advance before bringing merchandise to consign. Furniture is consigned for a period of 60 days. After 30 days, merchandise is automatically reduced by 20%. At the end of the 60 day period, furniture is automatically donated to ReNew unless prior arrangements have been made. At the time of donation, consignors may pick up a donation receipt from the desk. The period of consignment is the same for clothing.



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