

Gently Used Thrift Shop

Quality clothing for men, women and children, books, housewares, collectibles and small appliances

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF EUGENE

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Open: Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 5pm

Gently Used provides the funding for Operation School Bell, Operation Hug-a-Bear, Caring & Sharing and Educational Outreach. Donations are gratefully accepted.

SECOND THOUGHTS

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It sounds good to say "We support recycling" or "We love Mother Earth." At Kinko's we do more than pay the environment lip service.

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IN TOUCH with Recycle

DAVIS

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Texas, where the consciousness for that sort of thing wasn't really prevalent. I remember picking up scrap metal along the sides of the highways and roadways and taking it to the local salvage yard. I established regular beer can pick-ups at local bars. My efforts only payed for the gas it took me to do it but I felt good about doing it.

ODE: Was it difficult to learn all the details of effective paper recycling?

Davis: It wasn't for me because I was exposed to it everyday and in order for me to feel satisfied about how I was doing on the job I looked at it as a mandatory sort of thing, very challenging, but not unlike any other sort of job where you have to stay up-to-date.

ODE: Do you educate others as well when you are working on campus?

Davis: Yeah, I really enjoy that. As far as I'm concerned, any questions are significant ... regardless of how simple it might be. I do my best to give them a lot of positive feedback if they approach me.

ODE: Is the program self-sustaining? Do you make enough through selling the paper to cover your costs?

Davis: It depends on how comprehensively you look at the situation. If you take into consideration that if it wasn't material being recycled it would have to be handled some other way.

When I first began the program there was an average of 10 tons a month that was more than likely going into the garbage, into the landfill. If you incorporate that into the equation and add the fact that the markets have increased significantly just recently, along with the overwhelming response from the people across campus that want the recycling program to happen, you can make an argument it's making money.

ODE: Are other universities following your lead in regards to recycling?

Davis: We have been contacted somewhat from other universities who heard that we had a really good program and wanted to see if we could try to help them out. We feel honored to be able to help them.

ODE: How much paper do you collect in a day or month?

Davis: My service jurisdiction incorporates a little over 400 collection sites across campus and a vast majority of those are picked up at least once a week.

Right now we are averaging around 35 tons a month of paper material. We have done a maximum of 50 tons a month.

ODE: You have student workers that work for you picking up paper and sorting, but how much of that do you do yourself?

Davis: That's the beauty of my job. It's not set in concrete how I activate myself on a daily basis. One of the really beautiful things that suits my personality is that I'm now in the position to keep it all balanced. I do managerial level things and balance those with the labor aspect of it. The two often overlap because I'm a walking-talking PR person everywhere I go.

ODE: Is it difficult working on campus where there is the possibility of having so many different people asking for separate things?

Davis: It's really interesting, sometimes it gets to be the challenge of my job. But, due to the Physical Plant's efforts to recognize our program and try to set us up with the resources to provide good, quality service, it has improved dramatically.

I adore the challenges that I'm faced with because it inspires me to go beyond myself and learn new things. It's like I'm growing with it and there is a real beauty in that.

We all choose what we experience in life and we are all responsible for what we experience and it just depends on how much quality we want to put into that. I enjoy the process very much and I really feel like I experience that in the process of doing my job.

— Carrie Fenelon

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