



## Wichita's 2nd Blessing Thrift Store

World Impact opened our **2nd Blessing Store** in Wichita, Kansas in 1999 to:

- \* **Meet the physical needs of the poor**, while maintaining their dignity. Our clients leave as valued customers (purchasing what they need), not as recipients of charity.
- \* **Provide vocational training.** Community people gain work experience, which provides excellent references and bright vocational futures.
- \* **Give Christians an avenue** to meet the tangible needs of the urban poor, by donating clothing, household goods, appliances and non-perishable food.

Customers are greeted by volunteers and staff who exude Christ. Quality merchandise and appealing store appearance compliment the Christian music and Scripture quotes on the wall. Clothes are displayed by sizes so it is easy to shop. Pastors are available to counsel and pray with customers who are hurting.



## OUR MANAGER

**Brett Bargdill** grew up in Wichita, attended Wichita State University and worked as an executive in the aircraft industry for a decade. He was a divorced father and the primary caretaker for two young children.

Brett's life collapsed during a child-custody battle. He suspected abuse from those visiting overnight, but felt the authorities would not take action. He did not trust God at this time, so his options were to trust the court system or take things into his own hands.

Brett confronted those he suspected of abusing his children. He held hostages; the police were called. A stand-off led to the arrival of a SWAT team (and the media). Brett surrendered peacefully, but was charged with assault and kidnaping.



**Dennis Nichols (Director of Operations) and Brett discuss the store**

In jail, Brett read the Bible and God's promises, and started a relationship with the Lord. The court showed leniency and Brett received a greatly-reduced sentence of 47 months with good time.

Brett transferred to Lansing Prison so he could be in **Prison Fellowship's** program. A group of men shared their testimonies in the prison for a weekend. One shared a similar story to what Brett had experienced. At that time, Brett gave his life fully to Christ. He joined Bible studies and helped start a reentry program. He grew quickly in his faith.

Brett's friend, Denny Woodard, led the GED program in prison (Brett later took over those responsibilities). Denny managed the **2nd Blessing Store** when he was in work release in Wichita. When Denny completed the work release program, he moved back to Kansas City to reunite with his family.

After two years in Lansing, Brett joined the work release program in Wichita and became our manager. The store is growing in income and ministry. Brett knows that his life is not his own; he could have spent his life in prison. The Lord bought him with a price. He wants to give his all to Christ and to others, so that each moment with others is a testimony to what God has done for him.

Brett says, "There is a team atmosphere. I like serving in the inner city. I am learning to apply biblical lessons in my daily life and ministry. We compliment the church-planting efforts as people come to know Christ. The most rewarding thing is developing new friendships with our donors, volunteers and staff. I stepped into a new wonderful family of friends.

“Mike Timmins, the International President of **Prison Fellowship**, had spoken at the Wichita Prayer Breakfast. He could have spent time with city leaders, but came to see the store and meet me. He gave me a big hug. While I was in Lansing Prison I met Mark Earley, the US President of **Prison Fellowship**. We help guys coming out of prison with clothes so they can transition to being successful. Those first days are so important.

“One day in work release a guy asked me how things were going at World Impact. Three or four other guys talked about being in Bible clubs with Al, Don, Steve and Joe. Then 12 guys were talking about their time at World Impact: ‘we broke windows or made threats, but forgiveness was always there. They took us to play basketball and helped our families.’ Because I work with World Impact I was let into these relationships.”

## VOLUNTEERS

Jim Mahoney, an executive with Koch Industries, chairs our thrift store advisory board. Jim is dedicated to the store contributing to urban church planting financially and practically. He travels all over the world for Koch, but always finds time to call, chair monthly advisory board meetings and meet with Brett and Dennis to discuss store operations and plan for future stores.

Fifteen faithful volunteers clean, mend, sort and price donated articles. They serve as sales clerks, design displays, make and donate jewelry, provide fresh farm eggs and clean the store. They pray with, and share the love of Jesus with, customers.

Dagni Anders, who has volunteered for 10 years, says, “Working at the store is the highlight of my week. My husband said, “There is no way that Dagni could leave the store for a week without having withdrawal pains.””

Polly Broyles says, “I became a volunteer after overcoming cancer and multiple physical ailments, and retiring from the medical field. At 62, I wanted to do something that would make *me* feel good about helping others. Instead, I have grown more spiritually than in my previous 40 years in church.”

Jennifer Harris was raised in a home where alcohol and drug abuse, and physical and mental abuse were common. At 14, Jenn lived with a 19-year-old man. By 15, she was married and the mother of a Down’s Syndrome child. Two more children came by age 20. Five years later, she was estranged from her husband, who abused alcohol and drugs.



Jenn sought the Lord and renewed a commitment she had made to Christ after the birth of her first child. Looking for something meaningful, she volunteered at our 2nd Blessing Thrift Store. She is the official greeter, loved by regular customers, who bring her flowers and homemade cakes. Jenn is in a Bible study with Susan Nichols (World Impact staff).

Jenn says, “The atmosphere, the Christian music and talking about God make me grow as a Christian. It is wonderful to watch people come in, see our smiles and know they are accepted. I work at the cash register, and do some organizing. This feels like home. Dennis and Susan Nichols, and the others, make me part of their family.”

Ladies from the Emmaus Church near Whitewater, Kansas have served the store since it opened. Carol Claassen volunteers five days a week in sorting and receiving. Fellow church members, Betty Harder, Liz Schwindt and Agnes Thiessen, come every Tuesday to sort and price donations.

Six adults and 32 teens from Meade, Kansas spent three days remodeling the thrift store: repairing and replacing sheet rock; painting the walls, woodwork and display shelves; installing ceiling tiles; reworking our landscaping; constructing a dressing room and performing clean-up maintenance. Our store looks fantastic, and our customers love it!



Polly assists two young customers



Jenn and Susan study together



Our remodeling team from Meade, Kansas

## MINISTRY

- \* One day when Brett arrived at the store, he heard a loud noise in the back. He opened the door and saw a lady throwing her personal trash out of her car into our dumpster. When she saw Brett she cried and told him to call the police. Instead, Brett asked if there was some way he could help her.

This single mother's small business had gone bankrupt. Her children had been in private schools. Now, her home was in foreclosure; she had no money to pay her bills. Brett shared God's love with her and prayed with her.

- \* One community man brings several carts of left-over baked goods from Dillon's stores each Saturday, which we give to our customers.
- \* Gertrude Caldwell gets donated eggs from our store and makes cakes for the customers. Gertrude says, "I love the atmosphere in the store and everyone who works here; it is like my family."
- \* One lady, who just found out that she has cancer, told us first. We gathered around her, held hands and prayed for her. Several people come to our staff and volunteers to receive the love of Christ. This store is a safe haven for people who may not go to church. They trust us and see light in the darkness.
- \* Four-year-old Marie had a stroke. Her family came to buy a bicycle for her therapy. They found an almost new Barbie bike that Marie fell in love with. But the family did not have the \$19 to buy it. So Brett found an older bike that was not as nice. Then, Brett learned about Marie's situation, so he told the family the Barbie bike was on sale that day for a price they could afford. We lost \$15 on the bike, but gained a deep friendship with this family.



Gertrude picks up her eggs for baking

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*“Whatever you do for one of the least of these my brethren, you do for me”  
... Jesus*

World Impact regularly . . . feeds the hungry, clothes the needy, helps families in emergencies and provides medical, dental and prescription help.

Our thrift stores meet the practical needs of our neighbors, while maintaining their dignity. It is a healthy demonstration of Christian compassion.

Our thrift stores in Wichita, San Francisco, Fresno and Los Angeles need financial support to acquire and maintain the buildings and vehicles, and to underwrite staff salaries. Will you partner with us in this ministry of hope—encouraging the poor by providing needed items at reasonable costs?

Thank you, and God bless you!

*Keith Phillips*

DR. KEITH PHILLIPS  
President

P.S. If you would like to contribute clothes, food, appliances, vehicles or household goods; or volunteer, please contact us at [www.worldimpact.org](http://www.worldimpact.org).



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