



WELCOME TO AGAPE THRIFT STORE & FOOD PANTRY



Thrift Store Hours
M-F: 9-5pm
Sat: 9-3pm
Sun: Closed

Donation Drop Off Hours
M-F: 9-4:30pm
Sat: 9-2:30pm
Sun: Closed

Food Pantry Hours
Tue: 12:00-4:30pm
Thu: 12:00-4:30pm



A Splash of Color

Have you noticed the striking new red color on our doors at the Client Services Building? We are thrilled to announce that we are giving the Client Services Building a fresh and vibrant look with brand new paint inside and out. This generous donation from Walmart, along with the incredible efforts of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints volunteers, has allowed us to update our appearance and align it perfectly with our new branding. We cannot express enough gratitude for their hard work and dedication in transforming our space.

Operation Christmas Was A Success!

We hope you had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here at Agape Ministries, Inc., we had a truly magical holiday season. Our Slumber Fun Program was a huge success, as we were able to provide each of our clients' children with a brand new set of cozy pajamas, snug underwear, warm socks, a comforting blanket, and an exciting toy. It was all made possible by the incredible generosity of our donors, who truly blessed us this year.



In addition to our Slumber Fun Program, we were also able to lend a helping hand to the Goodfellows by donating new toys for their Christmas deliveries. We are grateful to Walmart in Wapakoneta for their generous contribution, making it all possible. Together, we made the holiday season brighter for so many children in need.

Thrifting Is Gaining In Popularity

According to the ThredUp 2023 Resale Report, the global secondhand market is set to almost double by 2027, reaching an impressive \$350 billion. This remarkable growth rate is three times faster than the overall global apparel market.

In 2023, the resale industry experienced a significant surge of 23% and is expected to maintain its momentum in 2024, with a projected growth rate of 33%. This can be attributed to the increasing preference of consumers for secondhand apparel, particularly during times of economic uncertainty. It is fascinating to note that in 2022, 52% of consumers had already embraced shopping for secondhand clothing, and in 2023, an astonishing 75% of consumers either have already shopped or are open to shopping for secondhand apparel.

At our Thrift Store, we have personally witnessed this growing trend and have attributed it to the Covid19 Stimulus Funds coming to an end and the cost of living increasing significantly.





Valentines at Agape

Now that the holiday rush is finally over, it's time to relax and get cozy with your loved one under a warm blanket, indulging in a delightful Valentine's Day together. We are searching for comforting and delicious foods such as hot cocoa, popcorn, chocolate candies, etc. that you can enjoy while unwinding with a great movie on the television.

We kindly ask you to consider grabbing a few extra items to support our cause. We will begin distributing these items during the first week of February. Your generosity will make a significant impact on those in our community who are facing hardships.

Employee Spotlight



Dale

Introducing Dale, our dedicated part-time Pantry Coordinator/Driver. Since joining us in October, Dale has been instrumental in collecting and delivering food donations, school power pack bags, and ensuring our food pantry is well-stocked. Not only does he assist our clients in navigating the pantry, but he also helps them load their groceries into their vehicle.

When Dale is not at work, he indulges in his love for woodworking, finds joy in camping adventures, and cherishes moments spent with his family.



Agape Thrift Store News

What a wonderful season to be a part of! Christmas brought joy and enchantment to the Thrift Store, filling the air with excitement and holiday cheer. The store was buzzing with customers, all eager to find the perfect gifts and treasures at affordable prices. This year, we are thrilled to announce that we achieved record-breaking sales, thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity of our community.

With the retail and food industry experiencing skyrocketing prices, more and more families are searching for budget-friendly ways to meet their essential needs. Our Thrift Store has become a beacon of hope for these families, providing them with a reliable and affordable shopping destination. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you who donated items for resale, making it possible for us to offer our communities such a valuable resource.

**"thrifting girl math...
if it's cheaper to
thrift then buying
new; it's free"**

Your contributions have not only enabled us to meet our sales target, but have also allowed us to fund our invaluable Client Services Programs. These programs provide essential support to individuals and families in need, offering them guidance, assistance, and resources to improve their lives. Because of your generosity, we are able to make a real difference in the lives of those who rely on our services.

As we reflect on the success of this season, we are humbled by the outpouring of support from our community. We are truly blessed to have such incredible individuals like you who believe in our mission and contribute to our cause. Thank you for being a part of our Thrift Store family and for helping us make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most.

Watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates and featured items!

December Shout Outs

- We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the SM FFA students for graciously hosting the much-anticipated annual Breakfast With Santa event and for their generous contributions of pajamas and funds towards our Slumber Fun Program. Your support has truly made a difference in the lives of those we serve.
- Next, we want to thank the New Bremen FFA for their annual donation of fruit to the food pantry. We truly appreciate your ongoing support.
- A special thank you goes out to Girl Scouts Troop #2139 for their incredible donation of over 50 pounds of food. We are immensely grateful for your hard work and unwavering dedication to bettering our communities.
- We would also like to give a shout out to Joint Township Hospital for their yearly donation from their Christmas Party. Their unique entrance fee of canned food donations for the Agape Food Pantry is a wonderful way to help those in need during the holiday season.
- Lastly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the First Church of God in St. Marys for their incredibly generous donation of 116 items for our Warm Winter Coat Program. Your support allows us to provide warmth and comfort to our clients in need, and we are truly blessed to have your partnership.
- We are immensely grateful for the selfless contributions of compassionate individuals to our food pantry and thrift store. Together, we can ensure uninterrupted access to essential programs and provide nourishing meals to those in need. Let's create a brighter, more compassionate community.



December Stats

- Agape Food Pantry served **428** people in **144** households.
- Agape Weekend Power Pack Bags were disbursed to **388** students.
- Senior Boxes were delivered to **15** people.
- Clothing vouchers were issued to **2** people.
- Household vouchers were issued to **1** people.
- Financial Aid was disbursed for **5** people.