

THE INSIDER

GIFT & THRIFT

BOOKSAVERS of Virginia

Gift & Thrift Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday
11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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Visit our websites:
www.giftandthrift.org

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As many of you know, I joined a group of other MCC/MCC Thrift folks on a Learning Tour in mid-March. I had never before visited a developing country in this capacity, and it was a beautiful, thought-inspiring experience!

We visited a number of MCC partners, each of them are working in their own way to build community, improve food security, provide education, be a good steward to the environment, and address overall well-being.

What our MCC hosts made clear is that they “walk alongside” their partners in Bolivia. They recognize that in-country NGO’s know best what is needed for each unique community. MCC is there to support and offer advice when it’s requested, and they follow up routinely with projects to gauge their effectiveness. I find this to be a beautiful approach, because I can understand how having a pre-packaged program used as a cookie-cutter across cultures can create a waste of funds and effort if the program doesn’t address what is actually needed. You should know that your donations to MCC go towards programs that the supported communities appreciate and embrace.

One of those partners is FUBE or Fundacion Una Brisa de Esperanza (Foundation for a Breeze of Hope). FUBE serves children who are the victim of sexual violence. They have a staff that includes lawyers, psychologists, and social workers so that all aspects of a child’s case and well-being can be addressed. All staff assigned to a child’s case work together as a team to build a case against the perpetrator. FUBE has an impressive 95% conviction rate for its cases. They also work to educate law enforcement, prosecutors, and others in how to relate with the victims to avoid further harm and reduce further traumatization.

Psychologists work with the children and their families to support their recovery and promote healing. The focus is always on the well-being of the children and their family unit as they move through their trauma. They offer educational opportunities for the girls to learn skills such as pastry making, sewing, or nail tech, so that they can build economic independence into the future. They also host classes for financial literacy, neuroscience, and more.

The center itself is bright and cheerful, with a lush green courtyard filled with flowers and greenery of all sorts. They focus on a holistic approach to the child’s wellness, including specialized therapy rooms, as well as a “fitness” room where they have fitness equipment, and also teach mind-body techniques that help tame anxiety and calm the mind. Even when a case is complete, the families served by FUBE are always welcome to come and visit this safe space. FUBE also has regular community-building activities that bring their clients together in celebration.

They have a large meeting space that has a glass wall, allowing copious amounts of sunshine into the space. We happened to visit when they were having their International Women’s Day activities. There were approximately 20 families who participated. There was an informative video about important women from across the globe, craft activities, story telling, and the adults were invited to write about the most important women in their lives. No surprise, many women wrote of mothers, sisters, or grandmothers that had provided so much support and love during hard times. Several women also shared what FUBE had meant to them. As they shared their stories of healing and hope, I grew teary right along with them.

Every community should have a resource like this. Because of your support of Gift & Thrift and MCC, FUBE continues to give a voice to these Survivors in Cochabamba.

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Birthdays:

Jody Lawrence	7
Janie Jones	10
Kyle Sampson	11
Bob White	11
Carolyn Grasse	12
Leslie Mohler	12
Carolyn Hatcher	13
Bill Dean	17
Bonnie Stutzman	17
Megan Blank	18
Kathy Good	18
Helen Rosenberger	19
Emily Stemper	25
Bobbi Counts	26
Becky Marple	26
Ian Vining	26





Evie Christner is a volunteer working with fabric and crafts. She attends Lindale Mennonite Church where her husband is currently serving as Interim Pastor.

Evie is a past board member of Mennonite Women of Virginia, and is also involved with Lindale Mennonite Women. She has contributed needlework and quilt projects to the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, and quilted wall hangings to Mennonite Disaster Service. MDS presents one wall hanging to homeowners at the time of dedication of their new or repaired home.

Evie believes strongly in the work of MCC in improving lives world-wide in the name of Christ. The philosophy of repair/reuse/recycle is important to her. She has previous experience as a volunteer and board member of World's Attic, an MCC Thrift Shop in Somerset, PA.

Working with fabric and crafts at G & T is the perfect place for her interests in needlework, quilting, and upcycling. She loves bringing order out of chaos and finding "treasures" when sorting donations. She likes to imagine what people who purchase these things will create. Evie's other interests include reading, music, and spending time with grandchildren.

Evie is a retired RN. She worked as an operating room nurse for over 30 years.

Evie is married to Merle, who is retired from the printing industry and being a pastor. They have been married for 51 years. They have one son and family in Madison, WI, one son and family in Raleigh, NC, and one daughter and family in Harrisonburg.



Annie O'Connor is a cashier at Gift & Thrift. She moved to the Harrisonburg recently, so has not gotten involved with much yet, but she plans to volunteer with a local Ruritan Club very soon. She has been involved with numerous church fundraisers in the past.

Annie loves to volunteer, and enjoys meeting and chatting with new people. She loves making someone's day brighter with a happy and uplifting conversation and a smile. She chose to volunteer at G & T because she thinks it is a wonderful store and she wants to be a part of helping it succeed.

Annie really enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, crafting, meeting new people, learning about new things, traveling, and laughing, among many other things.

Annie worked in the radiology department in the hospital for many years. She also worked in numerous types of doctor's offices (cardiology, ENT, neurosurgeons, orthopedics). She also had a job at a boutique hotel in Texas, which was very fun. Later in life, she started taking on private clients that needed care in their elderly years, including hospice patients. She very often makes friends with the patients and their families and they end up being lifelong friends.

Emily has 5 siblings. She has identical twin daughters, 4 grandchildren, a niece and her family that live locally, as well as many other nieces, nephews and cousins that live all over the East Coast.

HE IS RISEN

Who am I?

(May feature volunteers)

Volunteer #1: This family of 4 started volunteering in Booksavers last fall.

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If you would like to learn more about FUBE, visit their Facebook page [HERE](#)

Because of the private nature of the FUBE program, I only have a couple photos to share!

I will share more stories of MCC partners in the months to come!

Blessings, Sue

P.S.--the volunteer banquet/annual meeting is coming up Tuesday, April 9th! We have a few seats still available, so if you weren't able to RSVP before and would like to come, check with SherryS@giftandthrift.org and see if there's space for you!

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." John 13:34 NIV



Laura Thomas is a Booksavers Associate. She has been a loyal shopper here for 19 years, so when she was getting ready to retire she kept checking the website to see if any jobs were posted. Turns out, she had to look at Indeed, so she's glad it worked out! Laura is happy to contribute to sending our profits around the world to communities who need it, and she likes supporting the second-hand market that keeps goods out of the landfill.

Laura recently retired after 22 years in Virginia public education. The last 13 years were at Waterman Elementary School as a reading specialist. She also has served on the Massanutten Regional Library Board for six years.

Laura's husband works at JMU in the College of Education. They have two daughters. One is a third year student at UVA and the other one graduated from Smith College in May and moved to Maine in August.

Laura and her husband attend Asbury United Methodist Church. They don't have any pets, but enjoy watching the rabbits and squirrels who run around their yard.

In her spare time, Laura likes to read, cook and do Zumba a couple days a week with Harrisonburg Parks & Rec. She also tries to get to Pittsburgh once a month to see her parents.

Laura and her husband have been lucky to have taken several trips to Italy and Ireland with JMU programs, and they just went to Valencia, Spain to visit their daughter on her semester abroad.

A skill Laura would like to have is speaking Spanish, as it's so important in our city.

One thing Laura couldn't go a day without is good coffee! She has a supply of Starbucks K cups in her locker incase of emergency.

Laura loves working at Booksavers. It's a smart, fun team and she likes being in the warehouse when they are sorting donations and can geek out about the books coming in!

Monthly Statistics for February:

Department:	Amount of items:	\$ amount:
Adult Books	5866	9718
Audio Visual	2671	5349
Bookcycle	163	466
Cards	1804	919
Children's Books	6318	6464
Fiction	3451	5803
Magazines	2580	2104
Bags/Accessories	4577	9314
Children's Clothing	2326	4565
Crafts	4760	6637
Electronics	2042	9750
Furniture	441	9781
Housewares	13,133	29,878
Jewelry	1449	4379
Linens	2583	7065
MCC Products	59	568
Men's Clothing	2073	8299
Misc. Furniture	4209	10,518
Office Supplies	1522	1363
Seasonal	3452	4322
Shoes	1127	5001
Silent Auction	104	3227
Thriftique	2835	21,568
Toys & Games	3809	10,078
Upcycle	2405	5430
Women's Clothing	9093	31,212
Ebay	49	2805
Internet Books	777	12,812

The total number of items sold in February was 85,678. Total sales were: \$229,397