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Good Samaritan Mailman Strikes Again

By Cathy Tyson



Futures Explored Community Service Class shows off a few of the collected coats Photo Cathy Tyson

"After experiencing how great it felt to give, I came up with the idea to start a local fund within the Lafayette Post Office to collect winter clothes," said Jeovani Abenoja. Readers may recall that a few months ago he gave first aid to an injured older gentleman on his route.

His plan was to collect winter clothing, especially coats, from Postal employees, encouraging them to clean out closets, and donate them to Futures Explored Incorporated, a program for adults with developmental disabilities. The consumers (participants) in instructor Cindy Redinger's Community Service Class washed and sorted the donations and passed them on to Nifty Thrift, the thrift store the organization has run for over 35 years. Not only does revenue from sales go back to Futures Explored programs, but the shop serves as a "living classroom" for participants in their vocational programs.

If some of the adults look familiar, you may have seen these hard workers on sidewalk crew in downtown Lafayette or at the Moraga Commons on park crew.

"Oldies but goodies" used men's women's and children's clothing is always welcome at Nifty Thrift, 3467 Golden Gate Way. For more information on other programs, go to

www.futures-explored.org.

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