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THE OLDEST THRIFT STORE IN NAPLES HOSTS 35TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

NAPLES, FL (January 15, 2010) – Naples United Church of Christ (NUCC) is pleased to announce the 35th Anniversary of its mission thrift store, the Bargain Box. Founded in 1975, the Bargain Box is the oldest operating thrift store in Naples. To commemorate the milestone, the store will host an Open House at its 331 Eighth Street South store location in downtown Naples on Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Guests of the open house event will enjoy 25% off all storewide purchases, a 1:00 pm presentation by NUCC Pastor Reverend Cathy O’Connell followed by live music from the Bay Singers, a local 50-member men’s choral ensemble. Bargain Box volunteers will also serve complimentary refreshments from noon to 2:00pm, and every shopper gets a special chance to increase their discount to 35% off upon checkout.

“The Bargain Box has been a constant fixture in serving the affordable living needs of the Naples community and has fueled the church’s ability to achieve many of its community outreach goals,” said NUCC Senior Pastor Dr. Ronald M. Patterson. “This open house is more of a thank you to our supporters. Without donations from our church members, we wouldn’t be able to provide the level of quality items we carry. Likewise, without patronage from the community, we wouldn’t be able to serve the needs of those looking for affordable used merchandise.”

In it’s first year of operation, the Bargain Box’s gross receipts were \$19,464. Over the last 35 years, the community thrift store’s earnings have grown impressively and typically exceed \$50,000 a year. It is estimated that over the course of its existence, the Bargain Box has provided over \$1 million to the church’s community outreach efforts in Collier County.

“The church supports over 50 charities each year,” said Dr. Patterson. “With revenue from the

Bargain Box, we can make a valuable impact on the lives of those in need in Collier County through many local agencies like St. Matthews House, Grace Place for Children and Families, and Youth Haven.”

ABOUT THE BARGAIN BOX

Located in the heart of downtown Naples, the Bargain Box thrift store is the longest operating community thrift store in Collier County. The store was established in 1975 by women leaders in the community including members of the Naples Women’s Club and Women’s Fellowship at Naples United Church of Christ. Merchandise at the Bargain Box is obtained through 100 percent community donations, and all revenue generated from sales goes back into the community. Over 100 volunteers from Naples United Church of Christ assist in store operations. The Bargain Box is open year round and includes several departments such as housewares, jewelry, electronics, linens, books, and men’s and women’s clothing. The store added a women’s boutique in the summer of 2009. The Bargain Box is located at 331 Eighth Street South, (239) 262-3802.