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High School Graduates Enjoy Shopping Spree at Bargain Box

NAPLES, FL (June 12, 2015) — Bargain Box Thrift Store, a mission of Naples United Church of Christ, welcomed 18 recent Golden Gate High School graduates to its 3rd annual senior shopping spree. The shopping spree was held at Bargain Box on Wednesday, June 10th at 10 am where interns from Grace Place for Children and Families enjoyed finding home goods, clothing and electronics that will be useful in the next phase of their life, college. They were each given a \$50 dollar budget and two hours to shop around the store with their peers.

Johnny Jean, who will be attending Florida International University in the fall, was thrilled to be part of the senior shopping spree at Bargain Box. “I’m really thankful that Bargain Box offered us a different type of scholarship. Most places just give students money for college, but being able to actually shop for necessary items that we will need in college is a great way to reward us too.”

Carlos Justiniano, one of the students that partook in the shopping spree, walked out of Bargain Box with a huge smile on his face because he was able to purchase a coffee maker, portable vacuum, sandwich presser, a set of plates and glasses all for \$50.

In the boutique section of the store were two girls, Ashley Saldarriaga and Nga Huynh, who are both studying Biology on a pre-med track. “Today, I came with a mindset to find clothing for future presentations I’ll need to give in college.” Said Ashley as she grabbed a blazer off the rack. “My mom taught me how to be a savvy shopper, so I know the \$50 we have to spend in here today will take me far.”

“We are so grateful to Bargain Box for this wonderful gift. This is the third year they have offered this to the students and it has become something the seniors look forward to. College is full of change and uncertainty for many, especially our first generation college students. They can often feel different from their more affluent peers. Having a new outfit or dishes for their new dorm may seem small, but it is so much more than that. It helps build the excitement and makes them feel more like all the other students heading off to their first year of college. We are so

lucky to be part of a community, with businesses like Bargain Box that take care of the community's children" says Robin Gudites the AP Leadership Coordinator at Grace Place for Children and Families.

This event is the store and church's way of recognizing local students from the community for their citizenship and academic achievements. Bargain Box donates all revenue to their mission partners, including Grace Place.

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 furniture, housewares, jewelry, electronics, linens, books, and men's and women's clothing. The store also features an upscale women's boutique. The Bargain Box is located at 153 Tenth Street South, www.bargainboxnaples.com or (239) 262-3802.