

Primary Mission

The primary mission of Christian Crossing Thrift Shop is "To improve the quality of life for those in the Garrett County community who are of limited means and for those in crisis situation."

This primary mission is accomplished in three ways:

1. Through the operation of the Thrift Shop where donations of clothing, furniture, appliances, household items, books, and toys are accepted and then sold at nominal affordable prices.
2. Furniture, appliances, clothing and household items are given (free) to those in critical need as referred by social service agencies. In a typical year, over 3,000 items are given for free to those in critical need and who are not able to afford even the nominal prices charged by the Shop.
3. Direct financial assistance is provided on behalf of individuals and families that are in crisis situations for things such as security deposits, rents, utilities, medical bills, etc. and to programs designed to keep people from getting into crisis situations. Financial assistance is provided based on the screening and recommendations of designated social service personnel in the Garrett County Health

Department and the Garrett County Community Action Committee.

At the end of every month, after expenses are paid, 85% of income that is left over is made available for such financial assistance. Every year Garrett Cooperative Ministry has provided between \$50,000 and \$85,000 in such direct financial assistance. The other 15% is put into a reserve fund for facility repairs and upkeep.

Secondary Mission:

The secondary mission of Garrett Cooperative Ministry is "be good stewards of our environment."

This is accomplished by accepting the donations and facilitating their re-use. Items of donated clothing that are not sold at the Shop are given to a local Amish/Mennonite organization where they are sorted, repaired as appropriate, and packaged for shipment to Romania and other Eastern European countries where the need is great. Cardboard boxes, electronic items that don't work, any non-working appliances and any unuseable items with metal parts are taken to recycling centers. At checkout, purchased items are placed in recycled plastic bags, and breakables are wrapped in recycled newspaper.

Donations

Donations of useable items are always needed. Anyone who wishes to donate useable furniture, appliances, household items, clothing, linens, gift items, toys, books, sporting goods etc. is asked to bring them to the drop-off area of the Shop during hours of operation. If you have large items which you are unable to haul, volunteers may be able to pick them up. Leave a message at the Shop (301-334-6339).

Volunteers are needed

Anyone willing to volunteer services for any aspect of the Christian Crossing operation is invited to come to the Shop during open hours or call 301-334-6339. We would also like to have a coordinator from each church congregation in the Garrett County community. Coordinators keep their congregations abreast of our activities and needs.

Shoppers needed

Everyone, from all economic levels, is invited to shop at Christian Crossing. We look forward to hearing from you as we work together to help others.



History

In 1997, people of compassion in our community seized upon an opportunity to establish and operate a collection/distribution facility for donated household items to be sold for nominal amounts to our citizens and given for free to those in critical need. Garrett Cooperative Ministry, Inc., was formed as the vehicle through which an array of existing organizations and individuals could work in concert to make this vision a reality.

The facility, operating as Christian Crossing Thrift Shop, opened its doors to the public August 1, 1998, in a century-old building in Loch Lynn Heights at the corner of First Avenue and Route 560. In 2003 an addition was built to address the need for more space. Construction of a larger handicapped-accessible facility was completed in July of 2014 at the same well-known location.

Garrett Cooperative Ministry, Inc., is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization doing business as Christian Crossing Thrift Shop.

Shop Hours

**Tuesdays, Thursdays,
and Saturdays
10 am to 1 pm**

**Wednesdays
2 pm to 5 pm**

www.ChristianCrossing.net

**Garrett Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
P.O. Box 707
Oakland, MD 21550
www.ChristianCrossing.net**



[facebook.com/ChristianCrossing](https://www.facebook.com/ChristianCrossing)

Christian Crossing Thrift Shop



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Ministry, Inc.**

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Oakland, MD 21550**

**2 West First Avenue
Loch Lynn, Maryland
(at the railroad crossing)
www.ChristianCrossing.net**