



MAY 12, 2022

PROJECT SYNERGY COLLABORATES TO HELP UV COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

An effort led in part by UV students is helping to provide gently used clothing and other items for our school community and the greater region.

Project Synergy and Habitat for Humanity are partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off shed for community use. This shed is designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to.

The Project Synergy students are managing the shed and are able to select donated items for use in JT's Closet, the student-run shop that provides free clothing, school supplies and other items to students in need.



“The word synergy means “coming together for a common cause.” This is the reason that we were so quick to agree to combine efforts with St. Pauly Textile on the clothing shed,” Student Advocate and Project Synergy Advisor Kevin Nial said.

St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with a network of businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they are ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Project Synergy and Habitat for Humanity receive funding for donated clothing and has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

In exchange for managing the shed, Project Synergy also receives \$50 a month, which they use to support their club and its activities like the backpack program, which helps get food to families.

Project Synergy President Lyla Taylor, who is in 8th grade, said JT's Closet is a way for her fellow students to get some support with clothing and other items, without any stigmas.

“I just feel like there are a lot of kids at UV that need help. They may not want to speak out about it,” Lyla said.

In addition to supporting the club's activities, the funds raised by Project Synergy also go back to the entire school community through the organization of fun student events.

“We usually use the money to make sure there is always something to look forward to at UV,” she said.

With over 1,100 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the US) yearly. In 2018, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals.

The shed is located adjacent to south parking lot on the Secondary School side of the building.

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