About Beverly Bootstraps

Beverly Bootstraps provides critical resources to families and individuals so they may achieve self-sufficiency. We offer emergency and long-term assistance including: access to food, housing stability, adult and youth education, counseling and advocacy. We are community funded and supported.

How your Clothing Drive Helps

By hosting a clothing drive to benefit Beverly Bootstraps, you will be helping supply the clothing needed to stock the shelves of the Thrift Shop. Not only does the Thrift Shop provide low cost clothing and housewares to those in need in our community, but it is also open to every member of our community to enjoy a good bargain. Beverly Bootstraps often gives Thrift Shop vouchers to our clients who are in dire need and has helped families displaced from fires or a change in their home lives get re-situated with everyday household needs. We depend completely on donations from the community to keep the Thrift Shop stocked. As the need within our community continues to grow, we need your continued donations to ensure we can continue to help. Profits from the Thrift Shop go directly to Beverly Bootstraps programs and services and allow us to operate our Food Assistance Program, Adult Education, Youth and Family Services and Client Support.

Statistics about Beverly Bootstraps Programs

Providing statistics about our programs will help your guests/participants learn more about Beverly Bootstraps and will motivate them to participate in your clothing drive.

To share these numbers, download our annual Fact Sheet here: https://www.beverlybootstraps.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FY19-infographic-buckslip-for-websitev2.pdf
Getting Started

Clothing drives are easy to organize and are a great way to pull a company, congregation, school groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or any group together to help make a difference in our community. As a clothing drive organizer, there are a few things you should think about as you get started with your clothing drive.

1) Get approval from your company, school or group leader to hold your clothing drive.

2) Choose a date or dates and a location for your clothing drive.

3) Remember to contact Beverly Bootstraps to let us know about your clothing drive.

4) Choose a high traffic area to place your clothing collection bins or boxes.  
   Signs to place on your collection boxes are included in this kit.

5) Choose a theme for your clothing drive.  
   We have included a list of suggested themes in this kit.

6) Advertise your event to benefit Beverly Bootstraps via email, flyers, announcements, social media and memos – whatever works for your group.  
   We have included a flyer and suggested language which you can use to help promote your clothing drive.

7) Provide specifics on what types of donations are accepted.  
   We’ve included a list of what is and isn’t accepted at the Thrift Shop.

8) Set a deadline for collections and remind people when it’s approaching. This will help motivate people to submit their donations.

9) Plan a drop-off time for the clothing you have collected. Get help from a colleague or friend to pack your car(s) with your donations and transport them to the Beverly Bootstraps Thrift Shop at 198 Rantoul Street.

Bring your donations to the Thrift Shop at 198 Rantoul Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

Donations are accepted Monday from 12:00pm – 6:30pm, Tuesday – Thursday from 9:30am – 6:30pm, Friday from 9:30am – 4:30pm, and Saturday from 9:30am – 3:30pm. We encourage you to call the Thrift Shop first at 978-921-4710, to let them know to expect your delivery.
Clothing Drive FAQ

➢ What’s the best time of year to host a clothing drive?
Anytime! Our clients need your help year round.

➢ What kind of donations do you accept?
We accept in-season, gently-used clothing free of stains and holes, etc. We also accept housewares, decorative items, jewelry, in-season accessories and gently-used furniture.

➢ Can I just leave my donations outside the Thrift Shop at any time?
No. Please do not leave donations outside. Please only bring donations during our regular donation hours.

➢ What if I receive a financial donation during the drive?
Great! Try to collect the name and mailing address of those donors so we can send them a tax receipt for their donation.

➢ Will I receive an acknowledgement of my contribution?
Yes! Please complete the donation form included in this kit and be sure to bring it in with your collections. We will then send you an acknowledgement letter.

Clothing Drive Themes

Some fun themes for Clothing Drives are:

• Specific Item Drive: Pick one category of item that the Thrift Shop sells and do a specific drive, such as a jewelry drive, a footwear drive, a housewares drive, a decorative items drive, or an in-season accessory drive. Note in the Items Being Collected section of the poster provided in this kit, exactly what type of items you’re collecting.

• Party with a Purpose: Looking for a reason to host a cocktail party? Consider hosting one to support Beverly Bootstraps. You invite the guests and provide food and cocktails of your choosing. Just let guests know that admission to the party is a bag of used clothes. Then call our office and we can provide you with materials about Beverly Bootstraps. You then collect the donations and bring them to the Thrift Shop.

• Denim Days: This is one of the easiest and most effective ways to hold a drive in a workplace. Employees can donate used clothes in exchange for dressing down for a day. Give every employee who participates a sticker so they can show their support. Place a
sign in the reception area announcing the Denim Day to alert clients and visitors as to why employees are dressed down.

- **Ice Cream Social**: Employees/students give used clothing for all the scrumptious ice cream and toppings their stomachs can hold.

- **Movie Night**: This is a great idea for schools or kids groups. Pick the latest big hit movie and come watch a movie for a good cause. Ask for a donation of used clothing to see the movie. (You could also sell popcorn for $1 a bucket of popcorn and donate those funds as well).

- **Game Night/Lunch**: Host a game night or lunch party with your friends and/or co-workers. Whether it is Bunco, Euchre, Poker or your favorite board game, this is bound to be an evening of fun. The host provides refreshments (or do a potluck) and prizes, if you wish. Then each guest will bring a donation of a bag of used clothes as their entry fee to the party.

- **Washing for Wardrobes**: Have a car wash. Charge a bag of used clothes per car to be donated to the Thrift Shop.

- **Spring Cleaning**: Schedule your clothing drive for early spring when most people are putting away the winter clothes and switching over to their spring/summer clothes. Encourage people to donate any of the spring clothes they find that no longer fit.

- **Winter Warmer**: Schedule your clothing drive for late fall and request warm sweaters, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

- **Boxers for Bootstraps**: Something that people often forget about but are necessary clothing items are socks and underwear. Ask people to donate *new unopened* packages of underwear and socks to your clothing drive.

- You can also call the Thrift Shop at 978-921-4710 to discuss more ideas.
**Suggested Copy for Announcement/Promotion of Clothing Drive**

Our organization will be holding a clothing drive on [dates] to benefit Beverly Bootstraps. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in our community and I encourage you to join this effort to help those in need.

**Insert the details of your clothing drive here.**

Beverly Bootstraps provides critical resources to families and individuals so they may achieve self-sufficiency. They offer emergency and long-term assistance including: access to food, housing stability, adult and youth education, counseling and advocacy. They are community funded and supported.

Thank you for your help!

Signed by: Company Executive, Organization Leader or Clothing Drive Coordinator

*Note: You can also download our Fact Sheet and include current statistical numbers about all of our programs and services.*
Donate to the Thrift Shop

Good, quality donations are essential to the fund-raising efforts of The Thrift Shop. The revenue generated from the sale of your donations impacts the funding of our important (and much-needed) programs. Thank you for reaching out to us to learn more about donating resalable home goods, clothing and accessories, furniture and more.

Donations may be dropped at The Thrift Shop during business hours. We do ask that you come at least a half hour before closing in order that we can get your donations into the shop in a timely, un-rushed manner.

SHOP HOURS:
Monday - Thursday: 9:30am - 7:00pm  •  Friday: 9:30am - 5:00pm  •  Saturday: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Yes, please, we can accept these items:
• In-Season Clothing: contemporary, laundered, folded in bags or boxes - men’s, women’s and children’s
• In-Season Accessories: footwear, boots, purses, backpacks, scarves, ties, belts, socks slips, bras
• Jewelry: contemporary and vintage pieces, sunglasses, watches
• Home Goods: contemporary and vintage pieces: artwork, wall hangings, mirrors, candle holders, vases, pottery, statues, sculpture, lamps, small rugs (8’ x 10’ or smaller), collectibles, decorative goods, entertaining items, frames
• Essential Houswears: utensils, plates, bowls, glassware, bakeware, pots and pans, kitchen gadgets, china, small kitchen appliances such as coffee makers, microwaves, can openers, crockpots, irons and ironing boards, or other small cooking appliances, clean luggage with working zippers or latches
• Linens: Comforters, sheet sets, towels, tablecloths, blankets, napkins
• Furniture: contemporary and vintage pieces, table and chair sets, select upholstered furniture, chairs, small desks, small curio cabinets, coffee tables, side tables, trunks, bureaus, ottomans, bar stools, book cases, and other pieces we deem salable. Prior to donating your furniture, please bring in or send us a photo of your piece for pre-approval.
  (For furniture pick up or drop off information, please email photos of your pieces and any inquiries to: donation pickups@beverlybootstraps.org)
• Musical Instruments: contemporary or vintage pieces in working condition
• Tools: Hand tools, small power tools, clean gardening tools
• Garden Art and Planters: Contemporary and vintage pieces
• Seasonal Decor: contemporary or vintage pieces, holiday decorations or the current season
• Crafting, Art Supplies and Fabric
• Cameras, iPods, Small Camera Equipment, Working Turn Tables and Usable Video Game Players
• Books, Music, Movies, Video Games: fiction and non-fiction, best sellers, travel books, coffee table books, cookbooks, kids’ books, DVD’s, CD’s, LP’s, select children’s VHS tapes, video games

Please, take into consideration the condition of your donations. We can ONLY put in the shop those items that are in good, workable condition. Many of our customers and clients are looking to set up their first apartment or home; therefore, we strive to offer them the best of the best of our donations. If we receive unsalable goods we must pay to dispose of the items which impacts our ability to fund programs. Please, no stains, rips, pet damage, smoke or mothball smell, mildew or mold, items that are in disrepair, or broken goods. If you have reached out to other Thrift Shops and they were unable to accept your donation, we will, most likely, be unable to accept them as well.
Please, take into consideration the condition of your donations. We can ONLY put in the shop those items that are in good, workable condition. Many of our customers and clients are looking to set up their first apartment or home; therefore, we strive to offer them the best of the best of our donations. If we receive unsalable goods we must pay to dispose of the items which impacts our ability to fund programs. Please, no stains, rips, pet damage, smoke or mothball smell, mildew or mold, items that are in disrepair, or broken goods. If you have reached out to other Thrift Shops and they were unable to accept your donation, we will, most likely, be unable to accept them as well.

No, please, we cannot accept these items:

- **Leftover Yard Sale Items**: Generally, we find that what has not sold at a yard sale will not sell in the shop. However, if your yard sale was not well-attended due to timing or weather, we may be able to accept those items that are in good, clean, workable condition.
- **Hangers** - we use our own hangers therefore do not need hangers especially wire hangers.
- **Used Toys or Stuffed Animals**
- **Open Games or Puzzles**
- **Baby items**: Strollers, cribs, car seats, baby gates, high chairs, booster seats. *(We encourage you to reach out to Community Giving Tree: www.communitygivingtree.org)*
- **Electronics**: TVs, stereos, movie players, radios, cell phones, music players (accept a working turn table), out-of-date technology, unusable video game players, computer equipment, scanners, fax machines, telephones, printers *(call Staples or Best Buy about these items. You can also reach out to Beverly Computer 978-927-9797)*
- **Sporting equipment**: skis, poles or boots, roller blades, hockey equipment, helmets of any kind, pads (figure skates which can be used for decorative purposes will be accepted seasonally)
- **Medical Equipment**: reach out to your local Senior Center to donate these items
- **Vacuums or Large Kitchen Appliances**
- **Window Blinds with Cords**
- **Recalled Items**
- **Mattresses or Bed Pillows**
- **Text Books or Encyclopedias**
- **Clothing or Footwear**: with rips, stains, worn out, smoky, dirty, wet, torn, out-of-season
- **Furniture**: Big and heavy pieces, china cabinets, entertainment centers, buffets, hutches, particle board items, sleep sofas, over-sized upholstered pieces, pet damaged pieces, items from a smoky environment, wet or mildewed items, trundle or bunk beds, futons, pieces with broken parts such as drawers, scratching, or have missing parts *(if you are unsure about your furniture and need more information, please email your inquiry along with photos to: donationpickups@beverlybootstraps.org)*

Thank you for helping us accomplish our mission...
CLOTHING DRIVE DONATION FORM

Donation Drop-Off Date: __________________________________________

Contact Information:

  Organizers Name: ________________________________________________
  Company/Organization: ____________________________________________
  Address: _______________________________________________________
  City, State & Zip: _________________________________________________
  Phone Number: _________________________________________________
  Email: _________________________________________________________

Description of Donation: (# of boxes/bags, types of items, total cash donations etc.)
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Is this donation related to a specific event in honor/memory of someone? *(please circle)*
  Yes  No

Name and Address of Honoree: _______________________________________

Notes: Any additional information regarding this donation?
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
CLOTHING DRIVE

ITEMS BEING COLLECTED:
Clothing must be in-season, gently used and free of stains or holes.

Please Bring Items To:
ADDRESS:

DATE(S):

CONTACT:

In 2019, our programs served...
- 4,654 Individuals
- 2,572 Households
Donations to Benefit:

Beverly Bootstraps
EMBRACE · EDUCATE · EMPOWER

Place Donations Here

- Thank you for helping us make a difference.