

# clothing & textiles



2017-2018 service project

Did you know that In the U.S., the average person discards 71 lbs. of clothing annually, with 85 percent winding up in landfills? The Texas 4-H Clothing & Textiles Advisory Board members are challenging 4-H members across Texas to think about turning your trash into someone else's treasure by participating in the Texas 4-H Clothing & Textiles Service Project focusing on recycling!

## WHO

Texas 4-H members, volunteers and Extension personnel are invited and encouraged to participate.

## WHAT

4-H members are asked to collect gently used clothing, shoes, accessories and/or textile-based household items (i.e., towels) and recycle by donating to a worthy cause. One person representing each group will need to complete an online report by August 31, 2018. The site can be accessed through the following link, [https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_5sXsjkvpvQgYWI5](https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5sXsjkvpvQgYWI5). Posts and photos of the service project should be shared on Facebook using the following Hashtags: #texas4h and #clothing&textiles.

## WHEN

Since every county implements the 4-H Clothing & Textiles project at different times of the year, a large timeframe has been set for the local service project to take place. It should happen between September 2017 through August 2018. Maybe a recycling project could serve as a One Day 4-H event in October?

## WHERE

Our goal is for 4-Hers in all 254 Texas counties to make it their mission to take part in the recycling project.

## HOW

4-H members should work with their club volunteers and County Extension Agents to identify a community need and develop a service project plan to implement. Examples of national organizations that accept gently used clothing, shoes and household items are included. Remember that any service makes a huge impact, but keeping it local individualizes it.

## CELEBRATION

Results of the impact made state-wide through participation in the Texas 4-H Clothing & Textiles Service Project will be shared and celebrated in September 2018.



## WHERE TO DONATE LOCALLY?

### Local Churches

Most churches accept many different types of donations, including clothing. Often, the clothing is given to other church members. For example, a church may host a clothing drive for a family that lost all their belongings in a house fire. Contact local churches in your area for more information.

### Community Outreach Centers

Community outreach centers often accept clothing donations, and any clothing you donate will be given to a needy family in your area. For example, a local community outreach center may do an annual clothing drive to collect school uniforms, coats, and play clothes for low-income kids in the area.

### Homeless Shelters and Missions

The main goal of a homeless shelter or mission is to provide people with a safe place to stay, but many shelters also accept clothing donations. These shelters accept all kinds of clothing, but have a serious need for coats and warm blankets during the cold winter months.

## QUESTIONS

Contact Angela McCorkle, [armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu), or Charlene Belew, [c-belew@tamu.edu](mailto:c-belew@tamu.edu)

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Below include some recycling ideas, or come up with your own based upon local community needs.



Donate your gently-used shoes to this global organization that fights against the effects of poverty. Find out how at [Soles4souls.org](http://Soles4souls.org).



The name sums up this charity perfectly, plus the fact that over 88,000 people (and counting) have been able to get back to work thanks to donations received in 2015. For more information, visit [Goodwill.org](http://Goodwill.org).



There's practically a Salvation Army in every city or state. And the charitable organization makes it even easier to give back with its pickup truck service. Get more details at [Salvationarmy.org](http://Salvationarmy.org).



Take a load off your shoulders (literally) by giving away your gently-worn handbags, clutches and purses. Find out how at [Changepurse.org](http://Changepurse.org).



By recycling worn denim into insulation, the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program keeps textile waste out of landfills and helps with building efforts in communities around the country. Give old denim a new purpose by finding out how to donate, <http://bluejeansgogreen.org/Recycle-Denim/>.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul accepts clothing donations for use in their thrift stores. Beyond providing needy families with much needed clothing at low prices, proceeds from the sales also benefit the charity directly. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps low-income people by providing both counseling and assistance. Use the Society of St. Vincent de Paul website to find a thrift store or charity center near you. Website: <http://www.svdpusa.org/AssistanceServices.aspx>.



Through their job readiness program, the organization provides interview clothing as well as training to men entering and re-entering the workforce. Head over to [Careergear.org](http://Careergear.org) for details.



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Going Places. Going Strong.

Sometimes a skirt suit or black blazer is the extra boost of confidence a woman needs to enter the workforce. Get more information at [Dressforsuccess.org](http://Dressforsuccess.org).



We can only imagine the stress of planning a wedding while your loved one serves in the armed forces. Luckily, Brides Across America is there to help lend a helping hand by giving military brides a free gown. Get the skinny at [Bridesacrossamerica.com](http://Bridesacrossamerica.com).