

Second hand, first choice.

Recycle. Renew. Redefine.

By Branden Elmore

Whether you're a student making your own income while having to pay for books or a parent providing on a budget, A Second Closet has hidden treasures for all. When it comes time to clean out your closet and refill it with your favorite name brands this retail store has more than second-hand! This store is not your average thrift store, yet it is not your average retail store either.

So what exactly is A Second Closet? Located in Elmwood Crossing shopping center on Hope Mills Road, has redefined the term second-hand. A step above thrift stores, Second Closet brings in certain name brands by paying cash for clothes and accessories from people that bring items in from home. The difference between the store and consignment stores is that

The store is a very clean, well-kept environment. With all of the color assortments arranged for and each section separated for easy finding you are left with that "new-to-you" feeling.

"We cut out the middle man by having our employees cypher through items to find the best quality clothing and build our inventory. Each thing you find has been already picked and inspected and made ready to wear," said Dowd.

In each store there is a section for both men and women along with shoes, handbags, formal attire, and business wear.

Whether you are looking for attire for a cocktail party or just a day at the park, this store has it!

The store offers employ-

ment opportunities to high-school and college students within the community. At the Hope Mills location the assistant manager, Megan Slade, is a senior in high school. Slade has worked for the company for a year when they opened in Hope Mills in December 2011. "I enjoy working with a company that enables us to have input as they grow. Working here has given me a sense of what I want to do at a young age. There are people I go to school with who don't know what they want to go to college for. This company has helped

me plan for the career I want while giving me experience," said Slade.

All of the company's employees seem to be very happy and content in what they do. The store's management team tries to assist students with educational and personal goals outside of work. One of the Raeford Road employees Lauren Farrer, a student at Fayetteville State University, has never been on a plane and had plans to travel while in college.

"Towards the end of October Lauren will go to Texas with the owners and open up a location there where she will assist Megan with training," said Dowd.

Within their mission statement their goal is "to create jobs, provide employment in areas where it is needed, and become a competitive employer in the community. The company also strives to treat all employees fairly and celebrate their success."

"I enjoy the environment here, it feels like home and everyone I work with or that comes along makes me feel like they're family, said Slade "I can't see myself working anywhere else for my first job." It is safe to say that the success of a small business is in the words of the employees. With nothing but good things to say about the company it seems as if the employees and customers are very happy with the standards A Second Closet has set for second-hand stores.

All photos by April Warren,
FSU Alumni '12
for A Second Closet



you receive your cash in hand that day! The locally owned company has been recycling fashion for a little over a year now when its original location started in Sanford, NC in July, 2011. Since then the store has relocated itself to the Hope Mills location and recently a new location on South Raeford Road in the Westgate Plaza.

"Hope Mills needed a place like this to come and get the community involved and provide a great place to get these pricey name-brands," said Casie Dowd, the Hope Mills location's store manager.

The centrally located store stands out from the other shops on the strip with its ultra-modern décor.

"The owner's and management team are all young and vibrant and the style of the store matches and depicts a little piece of everyone who works here. We hire and train all of our employees on the basics of style, they get to dress the mannequins and set up displays which we take serious because it differentiates us from thrift stores," Dowd said.

