

Ocoee Thrift Store Helps Those in Need

Written by Karen V. Contino



Thrift-Mart in Ocoee offers clothing, housewares, furniture and more at greatly reduced prices.

As Jacqueline Siegel heard more and more stories about local

Jacqueline is the wife of David Siegel, founder, [President and CEO](#) of the largest privately held timeshare company, [Westgate Resorts Foundation](#)

With years of fundraising experience, Jacqueline began to notice that she and David were generating fewer

“What I found was, raising money through drives became harder,” Jacqueline said. “With the downturn in

Jacqueline brainstormed and founded Thrift-Mart, located at 17070 W. Colonial Drive in Ocoee. The 9,000

“One of the biggest contributions we have [made] is to Milestone,” Jacqueline said. “Foster children ever



Isleworth resident Jacqueline Siegel opens Thrift-Mart in Ocoee, with proceeds benefiting local nonprofits

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Jacqueline added that she was truly touched to see the impact Thrift-Mart's funds have made for the children.

"It was wonderful to see how grateful they were," she said. "The kids would have no place to go. Each one of them has a special place in our hearts."

Thrift-Mart accepts donations of appliances, home furnishings, toys, tools, vehicles, clothing, electronics, and more.

"We even take things that do not work," Jacqueline said. "We can get it repaired and get it going. And we can help people who need it."

Thrift-Mart's inventory is purposely priced at greatly reduced rates, making much-needed items available to everyone.

Thrift-Mart's motto is "Locals Helping Locals."

"We have been able to help people with our low prices, and we have been able to help people in need through our donations."

In agreement is Wendy Ponce, a Thrift-Mart employee who helped open the store.

"The store really [helps] the community, so I was really excited," Ponce said. "And we were proud to be part of it."

"My husband, when I mentioned it to him, thought it was a wonderful idea," Jacqueline said.

The couple's eight children, Jonquil, 18; Victoria, 14; David, 12; Daniel, 11; Debbie, 10; Drew, 8; and two more.

"I grew up where I had to work my way through college; where I had to pay for college waitressing," said Jacqueline.

"Jacqueline has got a big heart," said Bernadette McCann, Westgate Resorts regional director of human resources.

For more information, call 407-650-7282, email info@ftmart.com or visit ftmart.org

**www.ocoethriftmart.com
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