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*Office of Communications*

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**Press Release**

## **Southbury Training School Thrift Shops Still a Bargain**

For almost 30 years, the Southbury Training School (STS) Thrift Shops: Thrift One, Thrift TOO, and the Little Shop (Garage) have been a favorite place to shop in the Southbury community and surrounding towns. Managed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and staffed by local volunteers, the shop raised \$254,000 in 2010 for the residents at STS.

Every day except Sunday, the volunteer staff, made up of mostly retired people, arrive early in the morning to go through the latest donations. They sort and price items; they work the cash register and are on the floor to assist customers. Monday's are especially busy days with all the donations piling up from the weekend.

The community donates everything from furniture to china, from vintage records to first edition books and just about any type of decoration for any holiday. You can't just walk in the two shops located on Route 172 in Southbury without moving or digging through shelves and piles of interesting merchandise. Some of it is vintage, some is new and some is just old. Almost everything you are looking for, you will most likely find in either store. Thrift Shop One (the brick house), was originally built in the 1800's and has a feeling of warmth and coziness as you enter through the back door. One of the 100 volunteers is there to greet you and help you as you wander through the first floor of clothes racks, books and jewelry cases. Up the street and across the road is Thrift Shop TOO where you can find furniture, knick-knacks, more books, and all year long a whole display of seasonal and holiday decorations.

Each year the proceeds are used to enhance the lives of the residents at STS by providing renovations to their living areas, new furniture, TVs, and recreational equipment, as well as recreational opportunities. Many times, the funds from the Volunteer Services have paid for residents to visit an aging family member out of state. Last year, some of the funds bought back-up safety camera systems for over 30 buses and trucks used at the school.

The two shops are open Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information or directions, please visit the DDS website at [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds), click on Regions, West Region and then STS. You can sign up for E-news announcing sales and holiday specials at [ThriftShopsSTS@aol.com](mailto:ThriftShopsSTS@aol.com).

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