

HOMEFRONT

by Valley Haggard



SCOTT ELMQUIST

Highland Park's New Vintage Boutique

The transformative story behind **Sunny Days Elegant Thrift** echoes the mission of the organization that brought it into being. In October 2007, a group of volunteers from the nonprofit Boaz and Ruth turned an ancient Goodwill in Highland Park into an eclectic used men's, women's and children's clothing and home accessories store boasting everything from baskets and lamps to wedding gowns to formal and casual wear, both vintage and almost-new.

"Part of what we do is create businesses in neighborhoods that have been abandoned to employ people needing second chances," says Boaz and Ruth CEO Martha Rollins, formerly of Martha's Mixture. "Together they've turned this ancient Goodwill back into a wonderful, really cool thrift store with an Anthropologie kind of feel."

With lots of donations and volunteer power, Jillian Brigman, a Boaz and Ruth volunteer and Americore member, headed up the project that opened for business in May. "It has a leaky roof, so it's only opened on sunny days," says Brigman. "The name puts a positive spin on it."

Boaz and Ruth offers free monthly luncheon tours showcasing their businesses and transitional housing. The next tour is July 17 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunny Days is at 3001 Meadowbridge Road, across the street from Harvest, the Boaz and Ruth furniture thrift store at 3030 Meadowbridge Road. For more information, or to contact Sunny Days, call Boaz & Ruth at 329-4900 or visit www.boazandruth.com.



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