

Neighborhood Threads

June 2025 | Issue 6

Michael’s Second Chance: Finding Hope Through Work, Faith, and Family

When Michael came to Neighborhood Thrift in 2022, he says that he was at the lowest point in his life, and wasn’t sure he was going to make it out. His family had been broken by addiction and substance abuse, and he became the sole provider for his three children. He didn’t have a paycheck coming in, and he was struggling to meet his family’s needs. Michael says that if he was ever going to make it through this storm, he needed a lot of help and support, which he found through his connection to a meaningful personal faith and the people he met at Neighborhood Industries.



Michael works as a Retail Assistant, helping to stock the merchandise racks and shelves on the sales floor. He had some retail warehousing experience, but hadn’t worked on a sales floor, so it took a lot of practice to learn where everything should go. He says he constantly doubted himself and questioned whether he belonged, but that his coworkers and managers kept encouraging him on his growth and progress. A couple of coworkers were eager to help Michael figure out his job, and he got support to make healthier choices for his life, deciding to quit smoking for good. He worked hard to get his driver’s license in March 2024, and shortly after, was able to purchase his own car. According to Michael, these everyday, positive interactions with his coworkers and case managers are what allowed him to experience so much growth in his life, and begin to believe in his ability to grow through challenges.

After completing his time in Pathways to Employment, Michael was shocked to be offered a permanent job at Neighborhood Thrift. Today, Michael views life with a perspective that willingly embraces change and sees life as a continual journey toward growth. “I never thought I was going to have all this,” he says. “I love life so much now that I’m a changed man. My kids are taken care of, and I can encourage my wife in her journey because of my own experience.”



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353 E Olive Ave, Fresno, CA | 3139 W Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA

A Big Welcome to Northwest Fresno!

Thank you to everyone who made the Neighborhood Thrift Northwest Grand Opening an unforgettable celebration! From the moment our team unlocked the doors at 3139 W. Shaw Avenue, we felt the overwhelming support from our community. Over 50 shoppers were already lined up before we opened, and by the end of the day, we had set a new record for sales at our Northwest location.



The morning began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by remarks from local leaders and champions of our mission. We were honored to hear from partners including REDF, Sierra Health Foundation, and Community West Bank, as well as the Area 5 School Board Trustee’s office, and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate. We also received certificates of recognition from the City of Fresno District 1 and CA State Assembly District 27. This expansion marks a major milestone for Neighborhood Industries as we extend our employment social enterprise model to Northwest Fresno. Every purchase at Neighborhood Thrift fuels our mission to provide on-the-job training and wraparound support to people overcoming barriers to employment. Your support helps create meaningful jobs and new opportunities for our community. We’re deeply grateful to our team, our partners, and every shopper who showed up and celebrated with us. If you haven’t visited yet, we invite you to stop by and see what makes Neighborhood Thrift so special. The shelves are stocked, the team is ready, and the mission is in motion.



blkmtplc.
pop-up

June 28th, 2025
353 E Olive Ave. Fresno, CA
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Thank you to our vendors!

