

Neighborhood Threads

May 2025 | Issue 5

Hermalinda's Journey of Growth

Hermalinda came to Neighborhood Thrift as a referral through CalWORKS/Welfare to Work in 2019. She had never had a job before, and felt excited at the prospect of trying something new as a Production Assistant in the Neighborhood Thrift warehouse. She was eager to learn everything she could. As she was mastering one skill, she would get the opportunity to learn another. She learned to work in production, as well as merchandising and cashiering. This broad experience helped her to feel prepared for her recent promotion to Production Specialist.

As a Production Specialist, Hermalinda leads a team of Production Assistants in meeting daily production goals to help keep the store running smoothly. Her experience as a mother of six, as well as her own experience as a Production Assistant, allows her to lead her team with patience and empathy. Hermalinda says, "I try to create an environment where people feel comfortable asking questions—even if they've asked me the same question before. I know what it feels like to be learning something new, so I don't want them to be afraid to ask for help. If you learn to work with other people, to listen to their requests for help and be willing to help, you can make it a good experience for them to be here. And you can create a supportive environment that helps everyone on your team succeed." She says that being able to do this makes her feel proud of her team and herself, for being able to come together to do their jobs well.



In August 2024, Hermalinda got her driver's license. She says that if it hadn't been for the support and encouragement of Social Services Director Addie Carr, she wouldn't have had the courage to do it. Addie helped her study, practiced driving with her, and went with her to the DMV to take the test. Hermalinda says she felt so nervous, she didn't think she'd be able to go through with it, but having Addie there to calmly remind her of everything she had learned helped to steady her. When she found out she passed, Hermalinda says she was so excited she almost jumped for joy. She had started studying for this test five years ago, and could hardly believe she had finally achieved a goal that had scared her so much.

She says that her next goal is getting her GED, in the hopes of one day becoming a preschool teacher. Hermalinda says, "Everything you do, it has a reward at the end of the road. For me, I like challenges because I think I am capable of meeting those challenges."

In Kind Donation

[Click to Donate](#)

Drop off your donations daily from 10 AM – 4 AM at our Tower location, or Wednesday through Sunday from 10AM – 4AM at our Northwest location!

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

Neighborhood Thrift Grand Opening

Preparations are underway for the grand opening at Neighborhood Industries' (NI) second thrift store in Northwest Fresno. Located at 3139 W Shaw Avenue, Neighborhood Thrift Northwest will host its grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony at 9:00AM on Friday, May 23, 2025. A celebration with door prizes, food from My Guy Market and other vendors, and community resources will follow at 10:00AM.



This expansion has been a dream for our organization for many years, and we are excited to celebrate this milestone with our community! Neighborhood Thrift has operated as an employment social enterprise since the beginning, serving as a “classroom” for our Pathways to Employment Program, where people facing barriers to employment can be employed and receive paid on-the-job training, and the kind of wraparound social services that will help them to overcome their barriers to employment and personal success. Some of these barriers include limited/no work experience, lack of literacy/numeracy skills, housing instability, long-term welfare dependence, or previous incarceration/justice-involvement. This second store gives us the opportunity to increase our community impact by expanding into a new neighborhood, with opportunities to reach new customers and program participants. This expansion wouldn't have been possible without the continued support of our shoppers and community partners over the years. Every dollar spent and every item donated at Neighborhood Thrift supports our ability to provide the programming and employment that helps people overcome their barriers.

Join us for our Grand Opening event on Friday, May 23, and discover what Neighborhood Thrift Northwest has in store!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

GRAND

OPENING

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

STARTS AT 9:00 AM
DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM
3139 W SHAW AVE. FRESNO, CA

23 MAY, 2025

Thank you to our partners!

