tri-village trading post | a first community mission

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2025, donations to the store seemed to have doubled! The large volume of donations makes for an ever-changing assortment of merchandise, ensuring each visit is a unique treasure hunt that keeps shoppers coming back. It is certainly to our advantage that thrifting is a trend lately, which means people seek us out without us spending a dime on advertising. Word of mouth continues to be one of our best means of advertising! In fact, this year, some young shoppers have made Tik Toks raving about our great prices, cool clothing, and friendly staff.

The store is staffed entirely by volunteers, and our success is due in large part to this dedicated, creative, hardworking, and conscientious team invested in the mission of our store. This continuity and expertise make for a well-seasoned team that helps us flourish. Everyone's talents and interests fit together like a giant puzzle.

The Trading Post is also a place where ministry happens. Sometimes donors share their heart break about donating sentimental items and the emotional pain of going through a loved one's effects. Some have shared health challenges or their worries about family members. Volunteers are always ready to lend an ear and give love and encouragement. It seems we are a soft place to land, allowing people to feel safe being vulnerable.

The Trading Post is more than a store- it is a community where all are seen, welcomed and become friends. Of course, we are raising money to help support the many missions of the church, but we do it in a way that reflects the heart of First Community to all who enter.

In 2025, the Trading Post refined a mission statement to capture our purpose and developed a vision statement to outline the principles used in service of this goal.

Mission Statement
The Tri-Village Trading Post strives to be welcoming, conscientious, and financially supportive to First Community Missions.

Vision Statement
We model the values of First Community Church to accomplish this mission by

- Maintaining an inclusive community for volunteer staff to participate in meaningful work
- Providing a pleasant and economical shopping experience for the community
- Carefully handling generous material donations to curate store inventory and avoid waste
- Using profits to support local, national, and international mission efforts within the church

	2025	2024*
Raised from In-Store Sales	$140,200	$135,685
Raised from Outside Sales including:	$5,806	$8,964
eBay Sales	$4,868	$8,100
Consignment Sales	$790	$595
Other Misc. Income	$148	$269
Total Raised	**$146,006**	**$153,613**

Number of New Shoppers	432	356
Average Shoppers Per Day	50	44
Average Cost per Item Sold	$3.59	$3.67
Average Daily Earnings	$992	$916
Average Weekly Earnings	$3,057	$2,768
Average Monthly Earnings	$12,598	$11,847
Total Earnings on First Saturdays	$15,824	$14,343
Christmas Merchandise Only	$6,534	$6,172

**Revised figures more accurately report contributions to the church operating fund*

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025

The Trading Post contributes 15% of net income to the church's operating fund to cover administrative costs and staff support. However, the majority of profits earned are used by First Community Missions.

The Mission Grants Team is tasked with oversight and distribution of these and all mission contributions to support mission activities locally, nationally, and internationally. First Community Missions partners with numerous organizations supporting diverse communities and addressing varied basic needs.

In 2025, the Mission Grants Team awarded $107,163 in grants to Non-Profit Organizations, including:

- Community Refugee & Immigration Services (Columbus)
- Coalition For Racial Reconciliation (Woodland Christian Church in Columbus)
- First Community Share & Learn Garden (at First Community North)
- First Community Youth Mission Trip (Mexico)
- Healing Art Missions (Haiti)
- Heartland Conference Disaster Response (KY, OH, WV)
- HOPE Resource Center (Columbus)
- Little Bottoms (Columbus)
- Razom for Ukraine (Ukraine)
- Riverview International Center (Columbus)
- SouthSide Family Farms (Columbus)
- Tandana Foundation (Mali Africa and rural Ecuador)

Throughout the year, the team also awarded $5,676.47 in smaller Calamity Grants to help individuals pay utility expenses.

A complete report on Mission Grants Team awards will be available at **FCchurch.com/missions.**

IMPACT

In addition to these recipients, we have also provided material donations to:

- Hope Resource Center: Seasonally appropriate clothing for young men and women in addiction recovery.
- Little Bottoms Free Store: Clothing (sizes 0-5T) and accessories for low-income families on the Westside
- United Methodist Church Free Store for All People on Parsons Ave.: Adult and children's clothing
- Community Kitchen & Star House: Hats, scarves, gloves and mittens that are unsellable due to minor flaws
- Grove City Community of Christ also receives hats, scarves, gloves and mittens
- Open Door Art Studio & Gallery: frames, partially used art supplies, paper, old calendars, etc.
- Nursing facilities including Capital City Gardens Nursing & Rehab, Commons at Buckingham, Commons at Livingston, Commons at Third, and Commons at Grant: Linens, clothing, décor, pillows, Christmas cards, as well as medical and rehabilitation supplies that we cannot sell in the shop
- Mid-Ohio Workers Clothing Bank: Men's clothing
- Friends of the Homeless: Blankets, backpacks, small luggage
- ReStore: Home improvement items such as old tools, curtain rods, and various unidentifiable parts
- Humane Society: stained towels and rugs for use in cages
- Volunteers of America: Every week, the VOA picks up all the items we cannot sell in the store. In 2025 we donated 17,000 lbs of items!