



Elevator Overview

Our Vision: To connect children to giving and service. We like to call it Tangible Philanthropy and Big Citizenship.

History of our organization:

Founded on April 30, 2008, GiftsToGive began as a vision to create a place where children could learn from their “doing” the power of giving and service. We opened our model in New Bedford, Massachusetts on May 9, 2009. We subsequently moved to a larger facility in Acushnet in 2014.

Our primary mission is engaging large numbers of students of all ages in tangible philanthropy and community service. This involves providing 1,000 students per month, actual work and a coordinated partnership with SouthCoast schools in implementing their service-learning curriculum. In the most basic sense, it is learning through doing. Students and families donate what they no longer need, use, or want, and they volunteer to work shifts at our 50,000-square-foot Regional Repurposing Center. At “The Factory”, students sort, organize, and assemble gift packages of much-needed goods for distribution through 300 direct service child and family agencies, public schools and faith and community based non-profits. We currently have over 720 individual users of our “on-line shopping cart”.

We connect adults in support of students’ service and we connect community through recycling, reusing, and repurposing in an ongoing, simple, and sustainable process. GiftsToGive is working to redefine philanthropy and citizenship in a most basic way. The by-product of all of this community service is literally tons of cleaned, organized and usable products that are a valuable resource for the direct service agencies that are registered to place and pick up gift packages for their needy clients.

In the process of offering immediate help for struggling families, we offer a powerful service learning experience to both privileged and disadvantaged children; we connect communities on many different levels, and our social service distribution partners strengthen relationships with families and other community agencies. Schools gain a community-service venue that is immediate and sustainable—the perfect platform for tangible service learning and social justice experience. We bring together the affluent and the poor through donating, re-processing, and distributing clothing, books, toys,

etc. Parents have a great opportunity to transmit values to their children and teach understandable philanthropy through example.

Best of all, families can serve together. Local companies offer their employees and their families a meaningful community volunteer opportunity. Distribution is targeted to children's specific needs. By their "doing," children experience the power of giving and service, and we build a foundation for change.

Our Objectives:

Our overall objective: Create a powerful community center that provides service-learning opportunities through tangible philanthropy.

1. Involve children in positive, meaningful activity, helping keep them in school.
2. Serve as an invaluable resource for goods to service workers who know the children in the community that need them.
3. Build classes of student leaders and community leaders
4. Build early literacy partnerships, with 75,000 books distributed each year and extracurricular programs that support reading and early literacy.

Sustainability

It is important to the GiftsToGive model that the business remains low cost and efficient, so the local board and volunteers will be able to sustain it. During the first ten years, the Factory has enjoyed a very positive response from the community. The entire community has come together in ways they have been unable or unwilling in the past. Through positive press coverage and community feedback, it seems clear that the community is rooting for the success of this organization.