

## Retread Threads secondhand store now open in Haxtun

Written by Candie Carpenter, Haxtun Fleming Herald

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A new nonprofit venture joined Haxtun's main street last week. Retread Threads opened at 122 S. Colorado Avenue on Thursday, March 7.

Retread Threads is a nonprofit secondhand store affiliated with Haxtun United Methodist Church. Business organizer Barb Westbrook said the store concept began almost five years ago when then-Pastor Keith Hudiburgh proposed the idea. At that time, a committee was formed to look into the thought, but it didn't take off the ground.

Last year, a second committee came together and put added work into the research, and Westbrook joined in the efforts in June 2012. Then, she and other committee members Diane Fryrear and Vickie Fuesz searched for the right building to house the business but didn't have any luck.

In October, a Haxtun community member purchased the building that previously housed Engine Joe's and offered it to the group for the store venture. Westbrook said they received keys to the building in November and have been busy ever since. Members of the committee and the church congregation have all volunteered time and manpower to make the grand opening possible.

Extensive remodel of the building took place over several months and now allows the display of a list of items including infant boys' and girls' clothes from 3 to 24 months, children's clothes sizes 2T to 14, women's and men's clothing, household items, kitchenware, bed and bath, shoes, books and even toys.

To help start the business, the Haxtun United Methodist Church received a grant from the Methodist Church Conference Legacy Fund for the remodel and some operating expenses. Right now, those working at the store are all volunteers, but eventually, Westbrook said, plans are to have a paid position.

"Our goal is to have a paid manager position to establish a new job within our community," Westbrook said.

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Westbrook said it is important to note that Retread Threads is not a consignment store, but the entire inventory comes from donations, which are always welcome. Donations may be made at the store any time during business hours. Items not accepted include mattresses, computers, televisions, car seats and at this point, furniture.

The store is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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