



Satisfied shoppers pose with their free finds in front of the Bargain Box.

Bargain Box shopping spree rewards Grace Place grads

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Since 2012, Bargain Box Thrift Store has hosted a senior shopping spree for graduates of the Grace Place for Children & Families AP Leadership program. This year's event saw the largest attendance so far, with 18 students enjoying two hours of free shopping at the oldest thrift store in Naples. Many of them scored items that will be useful when they head off to college in the fall.

The mission of the AP Leadership at Grace Place program is to break the cycle of poverty by ensuring students graduate from high school, seek continued higher education and enter the workforce as hard-working, prepared professionals. The three-tiered program encompasses all high school grade levels and incorporates leadership development, service learning, college preparation, mentorship as well as parent and family involvement.

For more information about Grace Place programs for children from pre-school through high school, as well as for their parents, call 234-2400 or visit www.graceplacenaples.org.

As a mission of Naples United Church of Christ, Bargain Box dedicates proceeds from store sales to help more than 30 local charities, including Grace Place. On 10th Street South a few blocks south of Central Avenue, the volunteer-run store is open year round and welcomes donations of used but still useful household goods, books and clothing for men, women and children Monday-Friday during business hours. For more information, visit www.bargainboxnaples.com. ■



Daniel DeLosRios knows how to pull off the tuxedo jacket and denim jeans look.



Future nurse Evelyn Gordillo-Zetino found something in every department.



Jefri Figueroa, Miguel Sierra, Alexa Figueroa, Erland Eguez and Maikel Bereijo show off their finds.

Right: Jessica Cyriaque will look trendy on the campus of Florida Atlantic University in the fall.



COURTESY PHOTOS



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