

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2018

**Recycle Your Old Textiles at Saturday, October 20 Event
Happening at Destiny USA Pink Parking Lot**

The Salvation Army and Rescue Mission will be on hand to collect old clothing, linens, shoes, accessories and even stuffed animals, free of charge, from 8 am to 12 noon; attendees will receive a discounted \$5 admission ticket to WonderWorks

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (October 3, 2018) — Clean your closets and recycle old clothing and textiles at OCRRA's Saturday, Oct. 20 drop off event taking place from 8 am to 12 noon at Destiny USA's Pink Parking Lot (behind the Hiawatha pedestrian bridge, off Solar Street). Every vehicle dropping off washed/dry textiles will receive a discounted \$5 admission ticket to Wonderworks, valid for two.

It's a little known fact that textiles, such as unwanted clothing, footwear, linens, towels, single socks, underwear, belts, purses and more, can be recycled – just NOT in the blue bin. These items make up 5% of our waste stream (28 million pounds), one of the largest components of our trash.

Across the country, only 15% of recyclable textiles are actually recovered; 85% ends up in the trash. That means the average American puts 70 pounds of clothing, footwear or textiles into the trash every year.

95% of all clothing and textiles can be reused or recycled into new products, which supports the charitable mission of many organizations in Onondaga County AND supports local jobs. The October 20 event is aimed at increasing the recovery of clothing and textiles in our community.

“Don't trash unwanted or even unwearable clothes – if they are ripped, missing buttons, have a broken zipper, or are slightly stained – they can still be recycled,” said Andrew Radin, OCRRA director of recycling and waste reduction. “These items CANNOT go in the blue bin, but providing they are washed and dry, you can bring them to the event so they can live another useful life.”

All items collected will be donated to the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army. From there they will be resold into the community, repurposed into industrial wiping cloths, remanufactured into home insulation, carpet padding or sound proofing material or sold to other markets. Proceeds from the sale of these items support those in need in our community.

“Textile donations are life changing for someone in need. To put it simply, each donated item equals meals, services and overnight stays to those we serve,” said Jeannine Goodrich, donation coordinator, Rescue Mission. “One donated shirt provides two meals; one donated purse provides three meals; one donated pair of jeans provides four meals. We are currently serving up to 700 meals total daily...three meals a day, seven days a week.”

Donated items do NOT have to be in “wearable” or perfect condition, but they should be washed and dry. This event is free for Onondaga County residents, and they do not need to make an appointment ahead of time.

- **Acceptable Items:**

- ✓ Old clothes – **all items should be washed and dry**; rips, stains, missing buttons, non-functioning zippers are **okay**;
- ✓ All footwear;
- ✓ Accessories: hats, gloves, scarves, pocketbooks, duffle bags, totes, belts, ties;
- ✓ Linens: sheets, blankets, comforters, towels, throw rugs, draperies, table linens, placemats;
- ✓ Stuffed animals.

- **Preparation Instructions:**

- ✓ There is no limit to what can be dropped off;
- ✓ Items are best delivered in bags;
- ✓ If you are bringing in rags (old towels or cleaning cloths), put them in a separate bag labeled “Rags.”

“Our partnership with OCRRA on this event is especially exciting because it highlights the benefits of recycling: saving lives while saving the planet. These donations literally do both at our facility in Syracuse where men and women who have lost everything to alcohol, drugs and other issues find help and hope,” said Salvation Army Major Bob Miga, adding, “Donors who can’t make the trip or who have larger items can call 800-SA-TRUCK or visit SATRUCK.ORG 24/7 to schedule a free pickup.”

In addition, year-round residents can drop off textiles at their favorite charitable organization or a clothing collection container. Find the nearest drop off location by visiting www.tinyurl.com/CNY-textiles.

Textiles CANNOT be placed in curbside recycling bins. Wondering what CAN go in your blue bin? Check out the newest recycling rules here:

www.ocrra.org/services/recycle/

About OCRRA: OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature in 1990 to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents.

OCRRA's system includes: a strong recycling and composting program, a foundation for local waste disposal at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, two convenient trash and recycling drop off sites, a robust education component and programs for hard to manage materials, such as household hazardous waste, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury-containing devices. OCRRA's award-winning programs are funded by trash drop-off fees and the sale of electricity generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, NY. Learn more and get involved at www.OCRRA.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#).

About The Rescue Mission: *The Rescue Mission (Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse) is a nonprofit organization serving Syracuse, Auburn, Binghamton and Ithaca. We strive to share hope, end hunger and homelessness, change lives, and strengthen communities one person at a time.*

About The Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army has been providing hope to the residents of our community since 1883. With broad variety of innovative programs that serve everyone from infants to seniors, The Salvation Army's services touch the lives of more than 41,000 Onondaga County residents each year. The Salvation Army is blessed by thousands of Central New Yorkers who share our dedication to helping those in need, individuals, corporations and community groups who donate their time and resources to make sure that those we serve are able to reach their full potential.

About WonderWorks:

WonderWorks, a science focused indoor amusement park, combines both education and entertainment into one venue. With over 100 hands-on exhibits – there is something unique and challenging for all ages. Feel the power of 71mph hurricane-force winds in the Hurricane Shack. Make huge, life-sized bubbles in the Bubble Lab. Get the NASA treatment and experience zero gravity in our Astronaut Training Gyro. Nail it by lying on the death-defying Bed of Nails. WonderWorks is also home to two indoor ropes courses, Canyon Climb, the world's largest suspended indoor ropes course and Sky Tykes, which is a confidence booster climb for small children. WonderWorks is located in the canyon section of Destiny USA and opens daily at 10 a.m. For more information visit: www.wonderworksonline.com/destiny

Destiny USA *is a 2.4 million square foot tourist destination in Syracuse, NY that includes a strong mix of luxury outlet tenants, restaurants and entertainment. New brands are continuing to open to create a unique and dynamic consumer shopping experience. A stunning three-story glass atrium provides perfect weather year round. Oxford Economics has projected an annual visitation rate of over 29 million visitors from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Destiny USA is expected to be the second most visited shopping center in the country, according to Travel and Leisure magazine. It is the largest LEED® Gold certified retail commercial building in the world.*

###

OCRRA CONTACT:

Kristen Lawton, OCRRA Public Information Officer

(315) 295-0733

klawton@ocrra.org

RESCUE MISSION CONTACT:

Jeannine Goodrich, Community Engagement Specialist

(315) 701-3843

jeannine.goodrich@rmsyr.org

SALVATION ARMY CONTACT:

Major Robert Miga, Administrator for Business, *Syracuse Adult Rehabilitation Center*

(315) 445-0520

robert.miga@USE.salvationarmy.org