

# Kiwanis collects clothing to give to Integrity House

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 Staff Writer

Glen Ridge was bustling with activity all morning long on Saturday. Cars lined Ridgewood Avenue, from Appleton Place and past Bloomfield Avenue, as residents idly passed along their mornings either browsing through knicknacks and books at the Congregational Church's Rummage Sale, cleaning up Glenfield Park, or donating money and getting their cars washed by Glen Ridge High School band students for their car wash fundraiser at Ridgewood Avenue School.

In between all of these events, the Kiwanis Club once again had its biannual clothing drive set up at Glen Ridge High School and began taking donations at 8:30 a.m. There were 10 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club helping at the event that morning, as well as nine students from the high school's Key Club.

"Community service is what the Kiwanis Club is about," said Tom Casey, current president of the club.

According to Casey, they usually get a few vanloads of clothes for this event, although it all depends on the size of the truck, he joked. The club consistently receive a lot of donations from residents year after year.

"We are always glad the Kiwanis Club lets the Key

Club participate in this event and others," said Emily Burns, senior and Key Club president. "It's one of their best events, and it helps so many people."

"Our goal in the Key Club is to help those that need it," said senior and Key Club secretary, Brittany Chierico.

The Kiwanis Club has been holding its biannual clothing drive since 1986. This year, the drive focused on clothing for young adults for business purposes, but of course they were not turning away any other donations. All contributions were being donated to the Integrity House, which is located in Newark and Secaucus.

The Integrity House was founded in 1968 by local Glen Ridge resident David Kerr and provides substance-abuse treatment and support services. According to *The Star-Ledger*, the Integrity House provides a range of services and treatment to more than 1,400 addicts per year.

"The Integrity House has helped a lot of people over the years," said Arthur Dawson, councilman and long-time member of the Kiwanis Club who was volunteering at the event. "All the stuff gets sorted out, and everything will get used. All these donations will give people an opportunity to get clothing so they can find a job and get back on their feet."

