

Ten Thousand Villages State College

Report to University Mennonite Church

November 13, 2018

By Joel Weidner

The new store, that opened on September 12, is off to a great start and I want to thank all at University Mennonite Church who supported the idea of opening a store in State College financially and with volunteer hours. The store continues to receive the support of the church through a budgeted financial contribution, regular volunteers in the store, and from those who support the store through purchases.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

The non-profit board of directors currently consists of nine individuals from the State College community, three of which have close ties to UMC--Kris Charles (secretary), Jean Landis (vice chair), Joel Weidner (chair). Other board of directors are Alycia Baily, Jim Candor, Carol Cissel, Mary Dickson, Frank Dougherty (treasurer), and Deb Smith. The store has strong staffing and leadership with three paid employees equaling about 1.75 FTEs). Our full-time store manager is Kieran Holland, our part-time assistant manager is Jennifer Miller, and our part-time sales associate is Emily Prowant.

We have a diverse pool of volunteers from the State College community and continue to work at building up that pool. We currently have a volunteer pool of about 50 persons with a goal of building that number to about 70 individuals. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 8 hours each month.

Financial Results

The enterprise is off to a strong financial start. We had a great week of grand opening activities October 19-26. The State College mayor, Don Hahn, and council president Evan Myers were on hand to help cut the ribbon and gave speeches of support for the new business. On November 10, which was Bag Sale day across all Ten Thousand Villages Stores, we had our biggest single day sales totaling \$18,208. The only store in the Ten Thousand Villages store network that exceeded those numbers on Bag Sale day was the flagship store in Ephrata.

Since opening we are meeting or exceeding the sales projections from our initial business financial plan.

Month	Sales Goal	Actual Net Sales
September (partial month)	\$12,635	\$12,334
October	\$26,650	\$33,961
November	\$34,200	\$27,666 (as of Nov 12)

Rug Sale Event

We will be hosting a fair-trade rug event at University Mennonite Church on November 28 to December 1. The Bunyaad Rug Room from Ephrata will bring a variety of high-quality hand-knotted rugs that will for sale in the church foyer.

We need your help in making the sale successful and you participate in the following ways.

- **Volunteer** to help with sale by signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054aafa922a5fc1-fair>
- **Spread the word** – We have beautiful post cards that can given to friends or acquaintances or posted around town. We also have yard signs. These items are available in the church foyer
- **Purchase a rug** for your home or office

Thank you again for all the ways you have supported the successfully opening of the new store.

For more information on the store or to get involved, contact Joel Weidner, 814.777.4494.