



Jill Walker enthusiastically handles the children's book area by sorting and displaying them each week. Kathy Vant Hoff, a weekly volunteer, carefully and creatively presents jewelry making an eye-popping display! Alysa Vander Galien has fun displaying the variety of unique decor that is donated to Bargains Galore.



# Making a difference One bargain at a time!

By Renee Wahlen Tillema

With a mission statement to raise funds for Central Wisconsin Christian Schools and to make a positive difference in God's Kingdom, Bargains Galore Thrift Store has certainly met its mission – and then some. This upscale Waupun thrift shop has made a difference in many ways, from community involvement, to fundraising, and from recycling goods, to helping those on a budget.

Started in 2001, the store on West Main Street in Waupun has been grow-

ing ever since. With a volunteer base of 200, the three managers, Brenda Hofman, Melissa Wierenga and Jade Regnerus, give credit to those dedicated volunteers for the success of Bargains Galore.

"We recognize volunteer appreciation week here the last week in April," Melissa said. "We try to acknowledge them as much as we can. Bargains Galore wouldn't exist without them, they are the spirit of the store and it would not be the same."

There are about 65 volunteers that work Monday through Wednesday prepping the store for the big opening day on Thursday of each week. These volunteers are described as the faithful and constant helpers who get all the departments ready with fresh, quality merchandise and creative displays.

"During our store hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we have about 30 volunteers who work," Melissa explained. "There is a pool of about 140 volunteers where we pull