



# Alliston Community Christian School

## Alliston, Ontario, Canada

Cathy Lubbers, Principal



### Project Summary

Alliston Community Christian School is a small interdenominational school set in a beautiful rural setting in central Ontario, Canada. It began in 1983 and currently has 69 students from pre-school to Grade 8.

Declining enrolment over the past few years created some financial hardships. Increasing tuition, cutbacks and decreasing services only compounded the problem. The board sought aggressive positive methods of alternate funding.

In September of 2010 we had a dream of starting a thrift store. An empty store building was leased and renovations began. The grand opening was on April 30, 2010 and within three months the store had grossed \$27,000 in sales.



### Project Progress

In November of 2010, a committee was set up to bring the dream to reality. By December they had found a property in the heart of Alliston's retail district.

A wall and a change room were added. A fresh coat of paint brightened up the store.

A name was chosen to reflect the idea of quality items – hence **Alliston's Attic: a fine thrift store.**

We made a plea for donations of clothing, household items and furniture. Response was overwhelming.

Area churches were contacted, producing over forty volunteers from five different churches.

We opened March 18 and sales were brisk right from the start. The start-up costs have been paid and the store has already generated over \$5000 in profit.



### What We Have Learned



- It soon became apparent that we needed a manager to oversee the large number of volunteers. One was hired full-time.
- Additional volunteers were needed for behind the scenes work such as laundry, cleaning furniture, picking up and delivering furniture.
- We needed to set policies; e.g. did we want all of our volunteers to be Christians?
- Liability insurance was needed.
- There were some initial hard feelings from a thrift store run by another charity group.
- We have learned there is a great need in the community for this service.