

## Service Learning Reflection

From December 27-28, 2007, I had the chance to complete my service learning at the Spence Street Thrift Store (SSTS). Completing my service was such a positive experience! The goal of the SSTS is to sell clothing to the less fortunate of Winnipeg at very affordable prices, and all proceeds from sales go towards Pregnancy and Family Support Services.

The first day involved sorting clothing from generous donors. This part of my service may not have been very action-packed, but since the job was a solitary one, it provided the perfect opportunity for reflection. While going through the clothing I pondered the needs of the poor of the inner city, and how these donations so greatly help these people meet their needs. This was a reminder of how fortunate I was, especially after my Boxing Day shopping fling the previous day.

On my second day, I got to work up front as cashier. This time, I got to interact with the shoppers and visitors. This was such an insight into the condition of inner city poverty in Winnipeg. Before my service learning, the most I ever got to see of the inner city's poor was a sweeping glance as I drove downtown. While looking at the prices, I realized how little money the less fortunate actually have, considering how the prices ranged from \$0.15 to \$3.00. By looking at the tired, red faces of the poor, I realized how fortunate I am, and how much of my lifestyle I take for granted.

I know that we students have packed schedules, and many of us do service because it's a requirement. However, I must say that my experience at the SSTS was very worthwhile. While I was serving the poor, the people I interacted with have taught me a lesson, and have given me something back that will always stay in my mind and heart.

J. Daet