



Renewable People Making Reusable Products



JULIA: MISSION WEAR EMPLOYEE

Julia tells her story at themissionwear.org

About Us

MISSION WEAR is a non-profit business run by women who are in recovery from addiction, prostitution, incarceration, felony and homelessness.

We make reusable bags. Mission Wear bags are made out of recycled and donated fabrics. They benefit the environment and they employ women who are in desperate need of another chance.

We believe in the power of employment to help heal, and the benefit of giving someone another chance to have a job.

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THE STORY OF MISSION WEAR

MISSION WEAR began in 2006 as a home business that Beth McWhirter started with Dee, a woman from a program in Denver. Dee had been a prostitute for 20 years and was in drug recovery. Beth taught Dee how to sew; they made tie-dye shopping bags and sold them in the local co-op.



Now, there are 5 women sewing; creating bags out of recycled banners, coffee bean bags, blue jeans and other cotton fabrics.

Mission Wear bags are sold in 13 stores in Colorado and a store in New Mexico. All the proceeds from the sales go back into supporting the women at work.

Through employment with Mission Wear, they gain confidence, learn team-work and responsibility. They are referred to employment resources after a year with guidance and direction towards attaining a full-time job. **Mission Wear is a place to start; while everything else in their lives is in transition**—sobriety programs, meeting with parole officers, trying to get custody of their children—we want to be that underlying stability that gives them courage to keep going forward.

