

Good evening, I am Geneva Denney, owner and operator of Nifty Thrifty. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you tonight.

Nifty Thrifty is a nonprofit, high-end thrift shop with a thriving youth program. I'd like to talk to you about donating to our silent auction, the need for computer training in youth, and how your donations affect Nifty Thrifty.

Money collected from donated items is used to fund the interactive training of computer and consumer skills. Additionally, the need for computer training has risen exponentially with the evolution of technology, so our youth program continues to thrive.

And, you can do your part in helping the youth too! There are three simple ways to participate. You can donate money, contribute items for the silent auction, or volunteer your time for the event.

Computer and consumer interaction skills are among the top five traits looked for by U.S. employers. Nifty Thrifty's youth program is based around learning the computer and consumer skills needed to be successful in college, or entry level work.

Nifty Thrifty takes 5 students for each half of the school year, and we have successfully transformed 50 youth in the last 10 years, from students to working adults. Interactive computer training has been successful for 92% of people using this type of program.

Furthermore, studies found that students who extend their high-school learning with fundamental programs, such as those used by Nifty Thrifty, have higher success rates in long term jobs—versus those who don't.

Some of our students went into technological companies, some into the fashion-tech industry, and some into retail to continue to build their communicational skills. Nifty Thrifty's program is designed to increase students' chances in being accepted into new positions—and gain a step up before taking the next step forward!

No matter what a student is looking to do in the future, our youth program gives them a leg up for life. Their success has been predominate in the community around us and has taught many others that the life they are looking for is out there. All they have to do is take the first step toward success.

As I said before, the program is funded by the donations of the gracious residents of Beverly Hills. Over the years, they have donated over 2-million-dollars' worth of product for re-sale. This has provided new computers, professional teachers, on-site training, and college visits.

The success of Nifty Thrifty's youth program is known state-wide and has accepted students from 4 counties in California. The only way Nifty can continue to be successful is by the help of those around us.

Do your part to help the youth in need by donating your time, money, or items to Nifty Thrifty's annual silent auction. The benefits your help reaps are unsurpassed and will never go unnoticed.