

# Dekens Community Store – Executive Summary

## Our Mission

Dekens Community Store is an IRS-recognized **501(c)(3)** charitable organization dedicated to strengthening communities by connecting people, resources, and opportunities.

We believe valuable resources should never go to waste while neighbors go without. Through community partnerships, charitable assistance, responsible stewardship, and local engagement, we work to ensure that useful items continue serving people long after their original purpose has ended.

## The Need

Every community contains an abundance of unused resources.

Furniture sits in garages.

Tools collect dust.

Businesses replace equipment.

Families inherit collections they don't know what to do with.

Homes are cleaned out after moves, downsizing, or loss.

At the same time, individuals and families often struggle to obtain the very items others no longer need.

The challenge is rarely a lack of resources.

The challenge is making the right connections.

## Our Solution

Dekens Community Store serves as a community resource network.

We recover usable items through donations, cleanouts, purchases, and community partnerships, then place those resources where they create the greatest benefit.

Items suitable for direct community assistance remain local whenever possible.

Specialty collectibles, antiques, and other valuable items may be responsibly resold, with proceeds directly supporting Dekens programs and future community initiatives.

Nothing is wasted, every resource has a purpose.

## What We Do

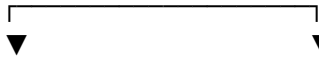
- Community Assistance
- Donation Pickup
- Collection Purchases & Appraisals
- Estate, Business & Property Cleanouts
- Community Partnerships

## How Dekens Works

Community Resources



Dekens Community Store



Direct Community  
Assistance

Responsible  
Resale



Families Helped



Programs Funded

## Our Values

Everything we do is guided by several core principles:

- Stewardship before waste.
- Relationships before transactions.
- Service before recognition.
- Community before convenience.
- Integrity in every interaction.

We believe lasting change begins with trust, consistency, and neighbors helping neighbors.

## Current Initiatives

Dekens Community Store is actively:

- Building partnerships with local businesses and organizations.
- Expanding community outreach throughout Manteno and surrounding communities.
- Developing volunteer opportunities.
- Growing our donation and pickup network.
- Establishing a permanent community location.
- Creating sustainable funding through responsible resale.

## Looking Forward

Our vision extends beyond operating a community store. We are building a long-term community resource network where individuals know where to turn when they have something to give, something to sell, or need a helping hand. By connecting people rather than simply collecting donations, we believe stronger communities are built one relationship at a time.

## Contact

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