

Taking scraps, making crafts

Durham nonprofit offers space to turn reused materials into community art

By Elise Clouser
THE DURHAM VOICE

In one room of the massive warehouse that houses The Scrap Exchange, blue barrels brim over with paint swatches in every color and buttons in every shape.

In another, shaky shelves are piled high with fabric bundles and scrapbook paper.

The walls of one snaking hallway display the art of professionals and amateurs alike.

Welcome to a creator's paradise.

The Scrap Exchange is a nonprofit organization that promotes creativity and sustainability.

Its retail store, located at 2050 Chapel Hill Road near the Lakewood Shopping Center in Durham, is a 23,000 square foot space that sells anything from used craft materials to antique home decor.

It is also a place for artists, children or anyone else with a creative streak to create and display artwork.

Now entering its 26th year, The Scrap Exchange is seeking to expand, says executive director Ann Woodward.

The store moved to its current location in August 2014, and management is already looking to purchase a new, bigger space in the Lakewood Shopping Center.

According to The Scrap Exchange website, the multipurpose facility is used for its retail store, a Make-N-Take room for workshops and parties, a design center and an art gallery.

The Scrap Exchange often displays the art of local artists who use recycled materials.

Woodward said that sustainability is an important aspect of The Scrap Exchange's mission. The organization accepts donations of materials that would otherwise



The Scrap Exchange accepts various crafting materials through donations from local businesses, industries and residents of Durham. Photo by Elise Clouser

have been sent to landfills. Donations come from local businesses and industries as well as from individuals.

In order to promote community and sustainability, The Scrap Exchange encourages volunteers to help with operations. Volunteers sort through donations, organize stock and lead programs.

Savannah Moore, a resident of Durham, volunteers at The Scrap Exchange on weekends.

She thinks the organization promotes community and is a positive influence in the area.

"As soon as I started here, it felt like I was part of a little community," says Moore. "I've met some of the most interesting people here."

Visit scrapexchange.org for more information about The Scrap Exchange, including store hours, programming and how to get involved.



DURHAMVOICE.ORG:
To check out the full story and see more photos, head to durhamvoice.org.