

# Pinecrest

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## The Recycled Closet opens in Palmetto Bay



Jennifer (left) and Jenna Kaloti.

### BY JESSICA KIRCHNER

Mother and daughter Jennifer and Jenna Kaloti dreamed of owning a chic boutique where shoppers could find trendy fashions at reasonable prices. That dream became a reality when they opened The Recycled Closet second-hand clothing shop at 13842 S. Dixie Hwy.

"We always wanted to have our own business," says Jennifer Kaloti. "I started reading about how important and popular consignment is now because of the economy. I think it's a good time to be doing this."

The shop has been a remarkable success with middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, and even their

moms rushing in to see what treasures they can find among the racks. The focus of the store is teen "trend labels" ranging from brands like Abercrombie and Fitch to Forever 21 to Juicy Couture to Guess. Clothing is not the only merchandise offered at the store; there are racks of shoes, purses, and displays cases of jewelry.

"Our shop allows people to show their unique style. There are always different styles because everything comes from different stores," says Kaloti. "The best shoppers who get the best things are those who stop in often to see what's new."

"When we opened in August, we had four consigners which included family members, and a six-foot rack of shirts.

Within six months, the store has grown to 250 consigners and 5,225 items. Inventory changes from day to day as a result of the brisk traffic in the store. Shoppers can save even more with a new set of clothing being discounted every month with white 20 percent-off tags."

The Recycled Closet incorporates three main goals — recycling, donating and economizing.

"We recycle the clothes because other people have used them," says Kaloti. "We don't buy our own bags; we reuse the bags that people drop off their stuff in."

Any merchandise that does not sell is donated to the Dorothy M. Wallace COPE Center, a school for teenage mothers located at 10225 SW 147 Terr.

"The COPE Center teaches students how to be responsible, continue their education and go on to college despite the fact that they have a child," says Kaloti, adding that they are looking for additional charities to receive unsold items.

The Recycled Closet always needs new merchandise and urges people to bring in their gently worn brand-name clothing. The shop accepts clothing ranging in sizes from double zero to 13, as well as shoes, purses, jewelry and special occasion clothing. Consigners also have the option of picking up their unsold merchandise or donating it to charity.

"We are only as good as the clothes we get," says Kaloti. "We always have to get clothes."

For more information, call 305-233-6744, send email to <mail@therecycled-closet.com> or go to <www.therecycled-closet.com>.