

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Kaylie, Executive Director
Organization: Extraordinary Ventures
Email: lisa@extraordinaryventures.org
Website: www.extraordinaryventures.org

Extraordinary Ventures to Open Extraordinary Thrift Store in Carrboro

New location will expand inclusive employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Carrboro, NC — January 5th, 2026 — Extraordinary Ventures (EV) is excited to announce that it will be opening the Extraordinary Thrift Store at 125 W. Main Street in Carrboro this January.

Extraordinary Ventures is a Chapel Hill–based nonprofit with a mission to create and nurture self-sustaining small businesses guided by the philosophy that all people are employable. For 17 years, Extraordinary Ventures has focused on creating meaningful employment opportunities for an often overlooked workforce — adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including autism, a population that faces an unemployment rate of nearly 80 percent.

Extraordinary Ventures currently operates six different mission-driven businesses out of its location in Chapel Hill. The opening of the Extraordinary Thrift Store marks a major expansion of the organization’s impact and visibility in the region and preserves an important community resource in downtown Carrboro.

“The thrift store is a great opportunity for us to double our size and significantly increase the number of job opportunities we can offer,” said Executive Director Lisa Kaylie. “One of the best things about a thrift store is that it will allow the community to interact more directly with our employees and experience the benefits of inclusive employment firsthand.”

The thrift store space will be temporarily closed for a few weeks as Extraordinary Ventures works to clean, refresh, and reimagine the store. During this transition, Extraordinary Ventures will be implementing new systems based on Universal Design principles to ensure that jobs within the store are accessible to a wide range of abilities and learning styles.

Extraordinary Ventures also recognizes the long-standing importance of a thrift store at this location to the Carrboro community. The Extraordinary Thrift Store plans to continue that legacy by partnering with local organizations and providing community support through voucher programs for Chapel Hill–Carrboro City Schools social workers, the Inter-Faith Council (IFC), and the Refugee Community Partnership. Additional plans are underway to further engage with and serve the surrounding community.

“The community has long valued this space as a place of connection and support,” said Pam Hemminger, Chair of the Extraordinary Ventures Board of Directors. “Extraordinary Ventures is committed to honoring the history of this location while thoughtfully evolving it to reflect our mission of inclusive employment and strong community partnership.”

“This project represents the best of what Extraordinary Ventures does — building sustainable businesses that strengthen individuals, families, and the broader community,” Hemminger added. “We are excited about this new chapter in our development and to show what’s possible when inclusion is built into the heart of a business.”

Extraordinary Ventures looks forward to sharing more details about the Extraordinary Thrift Store and its opening plans in the coming weeks.

About Extraordinary Ventures

Extraordinary Ventures is a nonprofit organization based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, dedicated to creating sustainable businesses that provide meaningful employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through inclusive employment, EV helps individuals build skills, confidence, and independence while strengthening the community.

Media assets, including photos and logos, are available upon request.