

At Shuler Funeral Home, we take pride in serving our community. We actively seek ways to give back. Hendersonville is largely a transient, retirement community; as a result, a lot of retirees don't have family in the area. We hear all the time at arrangement conferences, "I don't know what to do with Mom's clothes."

As we considered the needs of these families to find some meaningful purpose in the use of their loved one's belongings, we also realized that another segment of our community is in dire need of receiving such assistance. We decided that, as a liaison between the two groups, we could give back to the families we serve as well as help others in our community.

We were honored to join forces with a local non-profit organization, Interfaith Assistance Ministry. IAM's mission to provide emergency relief to Henderson County residents in crisis, including financial assistance, food, clothing, and other basic needs that many of us take for granted, directly addressed our goal of helping those in need. Established in 1984, IAM works with over 80 churches, the Jewish Synagogues, other businesses, civic groups, foundations and individuals.

In the days and weeks following the death of a loved one, the survivors will sort through the personal items left behind. They can bring their donations to the Funeral Home or we will go by the residence and pick up unwanted, gently-worn clothing, bedding and other items that will benefit IAM. We then deliver these items to IAM for distribution within the county. In addition to the families we serve, other people in the community who have learned of our project come by every week with generous donations for our Clothing Collection. We started this service in the Fall of 2009 and have collected several hundred pounds of clothing so far.

We at Shuler Funeral Home have been enriched by this whole experience. Our families receive a much-needed service they never expected from a funeral home, others in our community appreciate being able to give their belongings to a worthwhile project, IAM welcomes our help, and the recipients are very grateful for this aid.

We are honored to serve the community we call home and make it a better place for everyone to live.