



# Recycle for Change

*Change your Clothes, Change the world*

## Our Mission

Since 2000, Recycle for Change has been dedicated to helping those most affected by global climate change and poverty worldwide.

Recycle for Change has had an established textile recycling program for over 13 years now. What is great about the program is that it is self-subsidized. It costs the taxpayer nothing and the income generated from the collection of the used clothes and shoes donations funds the collection program in over 11 counties. This program not only keeps textiles out of the landfills providing residents with an easy, accessible and convenient method of recycling, it saves the already resource strapped cities and counties from having to create the infrastructure to develop their own collection program.

Our clothing collection boxes help save resources and lessen environmental impacts by reducing waste. The benefit of our boxes goes beyond the environmental one, the proceeds generated by the sale of used clothing funds three other non-profit organizations with programs aimed at mobilizing and supporting communities to take up the fight against poverty.

**Recycle for Change's mission is to fight worldwide poverty, to empower ordinary people to do the same, to reduce carbon emissions and create a sustainable future for all. Recycle for Change recognizes that the earth's resources are finite and that preserving these resources is crucial to the well being of future generations.**

Recycle for Change is a Public Charity as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code. Qualified donations to Recycle for Change are tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID # 94-3371033

**“Recycle for Change's boxes are used by our residents and rarely do we have a problem with them. In the instance that we see a problem with the boxes, we call and the problem is resolved quickly. A lot of clothes have been diverted from the landfill because of the boxes.”**

**Derek Crutchfield  
Recycling Coordinator - City of Vallejo**



## What happens with the clothes?

All items collected from donation boxes are delivered to a central location. Here a trained staff separates clothing from other items and prepares the materials for shipping. The packaged items are sold wholesale, shipped mostly to sorting centers or exporters all across the United States and Central America.

The proceeds generated by the sale of your used clothes and shoes help support the training of volunteers working on sustainable development projects in the following areas:



Education



Environmental protection



Health



Sustainable small scale agriculture

## The benefits of textile reuse

Clothing and other textiles are different from most other recyclable materials. They are easily reusable and recyclable, but also very easily contaminated if not collected and handled properly. The foremost idea is to divert clothing before it enters the waste stream and to find people that will wear it again.

All items deposited into a donation box are carefully separated by hand (clothing, shoes, miscellaneous items) and then prepared for shipping while keeping the material in the best shape possible for future reuse.

Most of the clothing made today is produced from cotton, one of the most water-, labor- and pesticide-intensive crops. It takes over 900 gallons of water just to grow a pound of cotton; the amount of pesticides and industrial fertilizer needed to grow enough cotton for one t-shirt weighs almost as much as the final t-shirt itself!

The Environmental impact of a cotton T-shirt:

Per Pound of final product	
Water	2,400 gallons
Fertilizers	0.55 lbs
Pesticides	0.02 lbs

During the course of Recycle for Change's collection, less than 2% of the total weight is discarded as unusable or non-recyclable.

For more facts about the importance of textile reuse, please visit

[www.recycleforchange.org](http://www.recycleforchange.org)

## Helping the local community

Besides other items, we receive a number of different kinds of books as donations, as well as food. A portion of the books are children's books and we try to donate most of these to local school libraries.

The food is donated to Sister Alice with the East Bay Educational Fund on International Blvd in Oakland, where our staff also volunteers their time weekly.

If you are interested in hosting one of our boxes and taking part in this program please give us a call or send an email to: [info@recycleforchange.org](mailto:info@recycleforchange.org)

**“The Clothing Box is a part of the community that gives neighbors the opportunity to give back... We are glad to be a part of helping the community thrive.” - Roma Groves, Principal Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School - Oakland, CA**

## Supported programs

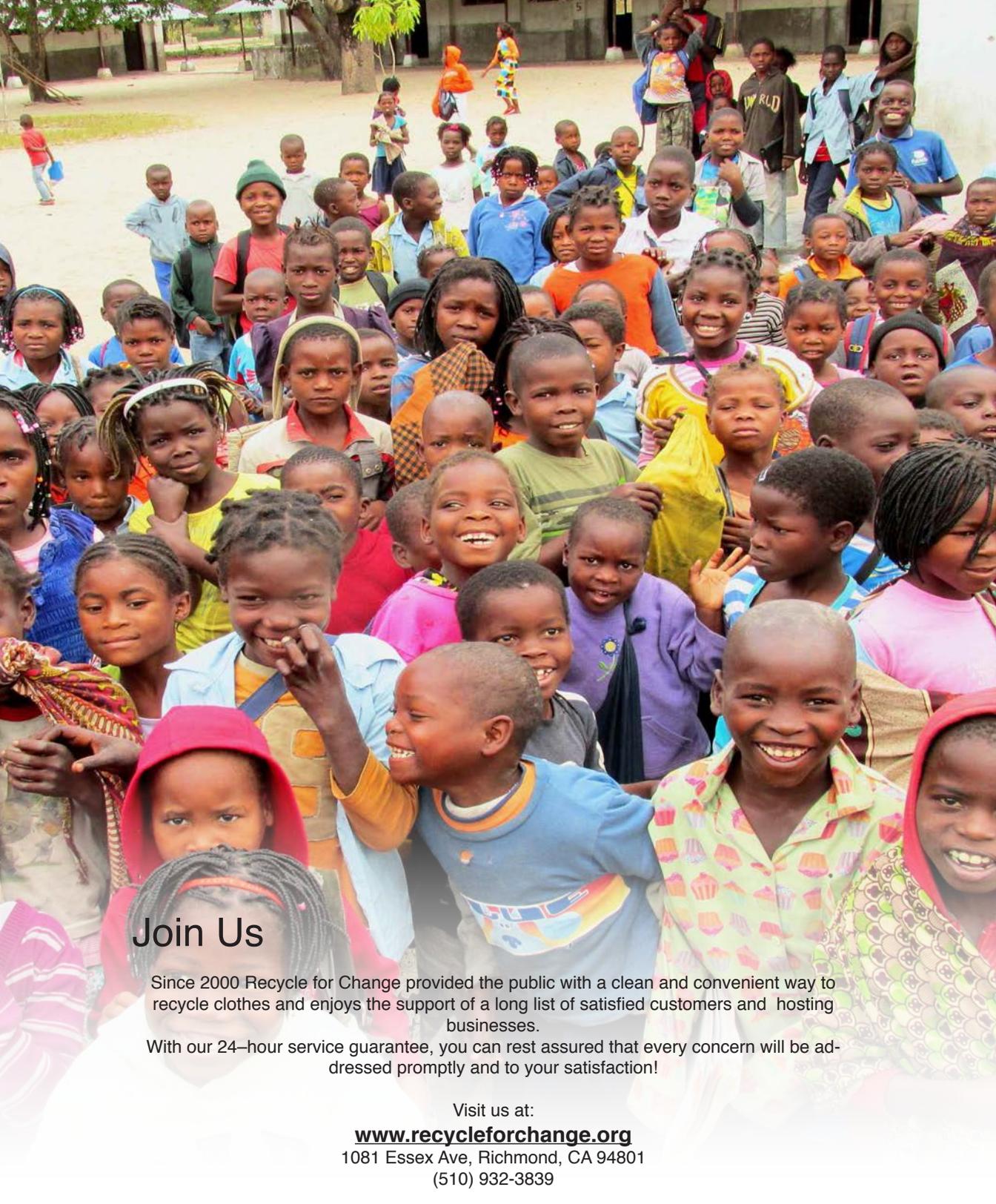
Recycle for Change is dedicated to empowering the poor and marginalized people of developing countries. The funds generated from selling the collected clothing are used to support three non-profit organizations fighting against poverty in the US and abroad.

Programs like “fighting with the Poor” - an 18 month long activist program focused on gaining thorough understanding of the causes and effects of poverty and taking concrete actions in the USA and abroad in a developing nation.

Our partners offer different programs for people who want to actively take part in the fight against poverty. These programs are making a real difference in the lives of people living in poverty worldwide.

Please visit our website to learn more about how you can participate.





## Join Us

Since 2000 Recycle for Change provided the public with a clean and convenient way to recycle clothes and enjoys the support of a long list of satisfied customers and hosting businesses.

With our 24-hour service guarantee, you can rest assured that every concern will be addressed promptly and to your satisfaction!

Visit us at:

**[www.recycleforchange.org](http://www.recycleforchange.org)**  
1081 Essex Ave, Richmond, CA 94801  
(510) 932-3839