

Thieves weren't counting on GPS in the donation bins

Breast Cancer Help Inc., a Bay Shore nonprofit, raises funds by selling used clothing that it collects in drop boxes across Long Island. Recently, two of its clothing bins were stolen, but because the bins were equipped with GPS tracking devices, Suffolk County police were able to track them down and arrest two men in connection with stealing the bins and selling the clothing.

On Dec. 13, Breast Cancer Help reported that the bins had been removed from parking lots in Bay Shore. The next day, police traced the bins to a location in Lindenhurst, where the Breast Cancer Help name had been stripped from the bins and replaced with "Donations International Helping Hand," a fake charity. Clothing had already been removed and sold. Police also found two other bins that were in the process of being stripped of their original markings.

For more than 10 years, Breast Cancer Help's clothing recycling program has raised more than \$1 million for its support and wellness programs. Earthrite Textile Recycling of Ronkonkoma administers the drop boxes, sending donated items to clothing distribution centers to be sold.

"We would like to thank the Suffolk County Police Department for recovering our clothing donation bins so quickly," Alex Fezza, executive director of Breast Cancer Help, said in a statement.

— BERNADETTE STARZEE

Please e-mail nonprofit releases and photos to nfp@libn.com.