



PHOTO BY STEVE PROST

Family Service League's Community Thrift Shop featured in the Long Island Press in the "Best of Long Island" section.

## His simple desire to help

**DAVID OBEY, 64**  
Huntington

Obey counts himself among the "lucky" ones.

The semiretired magazine publishing consultant said of his family and friends, "We're not going to lose our homes, we're not going to miss a meal."

But media reports tell him that many on Long Island aren't so lucky. They show "somebody in need, somebody's who's fallen on hard times," Obey said. "I do believe — and I'm of a generation that believes — we're all in this together."

Volunteering was something that had been in the "back of my mind" for some time, Obey said. With his consulting business winding down over the past year — a victim of the bad economy — Obey saw an opportunity to ratchet up his volunteer work.

He had heard of the work of the Family Service League, a nonprofit human service organization, through a friend and reached out. "I wanted to help my neighbors on Long Island."

Obey does that by volunteering at the Community Thrift Shop in Huntington, run by a partnership of six not-for-profit organizations, including the Family Service League. (The others are Huntington Hospital, Cancer Care, Daytop, which is a substance abuse treatment program, Planned Parenthood and Visiting Nurse Service). He also volunteers as a tutor for the league's after-school homework pro-

gram in Huntington.

Obey said the thrift shop provides an important service.

"Number One, it raises money for those six organizations. Number Two, it provides an alternative shopping experience for people in the community who need it," he said.

Even though Obey said the shop has been running a 50-percent-off sale for many weeks, "Our revenues have actually gone up . . . Times are bad, people are going to be looking for ways to save money. And by the way, there's some terrific stuff here."

For Obey, volunteering to help others is an important element of society, particularly as governments at all levels cut-back.

And, he added, "It's just simply the right thing to do, and I feel better doing it. You could always do more, for Pete's sake. But I feel good I'm doing something."