

Hanscom Spouses Club (HSC) Mission Statement

The purpose of the HSC is to foster a spirit of good fellowship among its members and to preserve the ideals and “esprit de corps” among spouses of Hanscom AFB through the provision of social, charitable, educational and welfare activities.

HSC is a 501c4 organization.

Minuteman Thrift Shop (MTS) Mission Statement

The purpose of the MTS is to raise funds to support the welfare branch of the HSC, which includes their scholarship fund and an emphasis on military-related charities, while offering the local community a convenient place to sustainably shop and donate unwanted goods.

MTS Directives

- Fund HSC Charities – 100% are military connected (see below)
- Give our local community a discounted place to purchase high quality goods
- Give our local community a convenient place to donate their unwanted goods while supporting their local military community
- Doing our part to give goods and apparel a second chance, keep items out of landfills, and help preserve our environment

Events and Organizations HSC supports with funds from MTS:

- \$45K in scholarships annually to high school seniors and military spouses
- HAFB school events
- Bedford High School events such as “All Night Grad”
- Bedford High School “Dollars for Scholars”
- HAFB girl scout and boy scout troops
- HAFB events such as “Hearts Apart”, “Heroes Homecoming”, “People’s Recognition”, etc
- Funding item requests for Airmen in the dorms to build community
- Holiday meals for Airmen
- Local Veteran’s organizations
- Funding for Military Balls and base events
- Hanscom Spouses Club events
- Donate shoes to the Hanscom Schools Shoe Drive
- Donate prom dresses to the Bedford High School Prom Dress Pop-Ups
- Donate coats and winter gear to Hanscom Schools each year to give to students and families in need
- Blue Skies of Texas
- Fisher House

- Air Force Enlisted Village
- United Through Reading
- Local Civil Air Patrol units

MTS pricing process:

- All items are donated
- We research each item before pricing to determine fair market value for used items as well as items we receive “new in package”
- We price at a percentage of the lowest price found of used and “new in package” items
- We take into consideration the season, desirability, and condition of each item

Why isn't everything free?

MTS funds the entire HSC charitable welfare fund. Our store is not base run because we are a private non-profit organization, and therefore we have many overhead expenses such as:

- Sales tax
- Credit card fees
- Accounting & Tax preparation
- Insurance
- Telephone and Internet
- IT support
- Supplies – consumables such as office supplies, pricing supplies, cleaning supplies, ETC
- Equipment – such as shelving, shopping carts, hangers, clothing racks, display pieces, tagging equipment, office equipment, software support, ETC
- Volunteer appreciation

Who are our customers?

- Anyone with base access, including those with temporary base passes
- Military members and families
- Military member's guests while visiting base
- Contractors
- DOD employees
- Retirees

Who is our staff?

- Volunteers:
 - Over 90% of our volunteers are dependent spouses and retirees with additional full-time employment
 - Volunteers are not required to make a commitment
 - The store only averages 1-2 volunteers per day out of our pool of over 60 volunteers
- Managers:
 - We have 2 paid, committed managers who each work approximately 30 hours per week
 - Currently the take home pay is far below minimum wage

The life cycle of donated items:

- Items are deposited into the donation shed
- Volunteers unload the shed once per week, and bring all items into the store
- Sorters go through all donated items and place them in appropriate areas for 2nd level sorting. A large percentage of items are re-donated or thrown in the trash because of being incomplete, broken, soiled, or unsellable (undergarments), etc. We make a huge effort to offer only high-quality items to customers
- Volunteers keep each area organized for restocking the sales floor. Most items must be cleaned, bundled and/or wrapped. All electronics are tested, and cords wrapped. Clothing needs to be lint rolled, zippers checked, and sometimes taken home to be washed by managers and then hung. All bags, luggage, purses, etc need to be cleaned and closures checked. Military clothing and supplies must have all patches removed, zippers checked and hung. Toys, games and puzzles must be counted for pieces and wrapped. Seasonal items are stored. Like-items are collected for later displays.
- Managers create new displays 2-3 times per week
- Items are chosen, priced (see process above) and displayed on the sales floor in appropriate locations

What happens to items that don't sell?

- Managers lower prices periodically for items that don't sell, with the focus on larger items from a space constraint standpoint
- Nearing the end of the season, we will offer discounts on specific categories of items: seasonal clothing, holiday décor, book sales, etc.
- If an item doesn't sell after a long time, it gets donated to Goodwill, Epilepsy Foundation, or other charity, depending on the item