and be able to put food on the table, pay the electric bill, and make payroll.”

Ed, known for his ability to connect with others, also stepped in and helped when possible.

“He would get in there, roll his sleeves up, and work hard,” Leo said. “He’d be out with the realtors, looking at new locations. If he saw something that needed to be moved, he’d be the one who moved it. [Ministries] thought they were getting a consultant. He’d be in there setting up the racks and the shelves.”

In addition, he encouraged others in their work and spiritual walk.

“After he passed away, we found list after list of people in the organizations that he served who he was praying for,” Leo said. “He was constantly on the phone calling and encouraging and praying with those in the thrift-store ministries, too. His love for Jesus is what he shared wherever he went.”

Today, Leo and a team of volunteers are continuing the ACTS conference, an event designed for learning and encouragement.

“His legacy lives on in the thrift stores around the country that he visited, consulted with, encouraged and prayed for, and in the Association of Christian Thrift Stores’ annual conference,” Leo said.

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Thrift Store Stats  *The rising trend in the secondhand market*

- **86** Percentage of customers older than 18 who have or were open to buying secondhand items in 2020, compared to just 45 percent in 2016.

- **36** billion: Estimated number of clothing items tossed each year in the United States.

- **6.65** billion: Number of pieces of clothing that have been recirculated via the secondhand market.

- **42** Percentage of consumers who plan to spend more money on used goods during the next five years.

- **45** Percentage of millennials and Gen Z who refuse to purchase from nonsustainable brands and retailers.

- **25** Percentage of consumers who say they care less about trendy clothing than before the COVID-19 upheaval.

- **5.4** Times the resale industry is projected to grow over the next half-decade.

*Source: 2021 Resale Report on www.thredup.com*