

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23



**Clothes Box
Foundation**

A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear friends and supporters,

I am pleased to present the annual report of Clothes Box Foundation for the FY 2022-23. In the past year, we have continued our mission to repurpose clothes into something meaningful. Our efforts have resulted in significant progress toward creating a more sustainable future, and we are proud to share some of our accomplishments with you.

Firstly, our team of volunteers has worked tirelessly to collect, sort, and distribute thousands of clean clothes to families and individuals in need. We have collaborated with various local organizations and shelters to identify and reach out to communities most needing our services.

Through these partnerships, we have provided not just clothes but also a sense of dignity and hope to those struggling with financial or personal difficulties. Secondly, we have upcycled over 16 lakh pieces of waste clothes that would otherwise have ended up in landfills. By repurposing these clothes and turning them into new products, we have reduced the amount of textile waste generated in our community, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Lastly, we have continued to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the fashion industry and encourage individuals to make more conscious choices when it comes to clothing. Through our social media campaigns and community events, we have inspired people to take action toward a conscious future, and our efforts have positively impacted the local community.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our dedicated team of volunteers, donors, and partners. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and look forward to working together in the coming years. As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of positively impacting the environment through our projects. We will continue to explore new ways to upcycle waste clothes, distribute clean clothes to those in need, and raise awareness about the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry.

Thank you for being so supportive, and we look forward to continuing our journey toward a greener future.

Sajan Veerr Abrol
Founder and Chairman Trustee

HELPING THE WORLD TACKLE **TEXTILE WASTE**



REPURPOSING CLOTHES

Clothes Box Foundation has steered towards making clothes accessible to the underprivileged for years. We have worked on the ground with hundreds of supporters to impact millions of lives. As we continue to spread warmth, we see opportunity ahead in other segments we have been working on. Upcycling has been a part of our business model for 5 years now and has contributed significantly to our growth. We have dealt with both pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste seamlessly and delivered value, impacted lives. Providing livelihood to marginalized women and simultaneously to deal with excess unwanted clothing, it has been the key driver behind our expansion. We entered last-mile recycling last year with our innovation and since then we have been researching and learning constantly.

We work to reduce the fashion industry's environmental impact by curbing the amount of waste ending up in landfills. We serve as a one-stop solution for apparel, and fast fashion brands to achieve their net zero targets. Dealing with pre-consumer wearables was never so systematic and approachable. With increased regulations and awareness among the consumers and investors, brands focus on becoming carbon neutral and decarbonizing their systems and supply chains. Our projects help them offset their carbon footprints. This is the vision we are moving forward with – **we are helping the world tackle textile waste.**



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



**21
LACS**

Pieces of clothes repurposed

Clothes are repurposed into something meaningful – either by redistribution to underprivileged or upcycling into useful products.



**1050
TONS**

Waste diverted from landfills

Clothes are repurposed into something meaningful – either by redistribution to underprivileged or upcycling into useful products.



**1327
TONS**

Minimum Carbon Savings

We avoid emissions by diverting the waste from going into the landfill. If not diverted, some of this waste might not decompose for years.



**33190
TONS**

Maximum Carbon Savings

Textile waste upscaled to make fabric products eliminate the need of new such products and results in embedded carbon savings.



**19432
MEGA-L**

Water Footprint Saved

We avoided water consumption otherwise required from the manufacturing of new garments.

HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO?



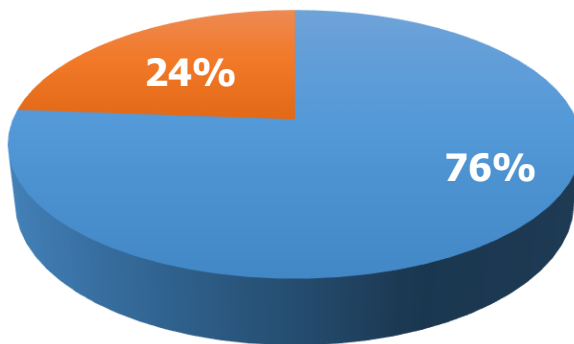
OUR COLLECTION

At Clothes Box Foundation, we collect pre-consumer clothes from brands and post-consumer clothes from individuals across India. We provide **door-step pick-up** facility across 25,000 zip codes. A convenient and easy process of donating used clothes through pick-up services encourages many minds every day to take this conscious step. Our goal is to repurpose these clothes and create a positive impact.

To achieve this, we have established a network of third-party logistics partners who handle the transportation and delivery of the donated items. This allows us to efficiently collect clothes from various parts of the country, including remote areas which may be otherwise difficult to reach. Hundreds of volunteers have approached and helped us to curate successful clothes collection drives in 2022. The involvement of younger generations/ young adults has set a tone for the growing minds to pursue sustainable goals.

Textile factories and fashion brands send deadstock and scrap fabric directly to our facility. For them it is an easy, cost effective and environmentally friendly method of getting rid of the wasted fabric and an active involvement in circular fashion.

Category of collections



- Post-consumer clothes
- Pre-consumer clothes

Once the stock reaches our facility, the clothes are sorted into fit-to be distributed and to-be-recycled categories in our warehouse. The entire process has a significant impact.



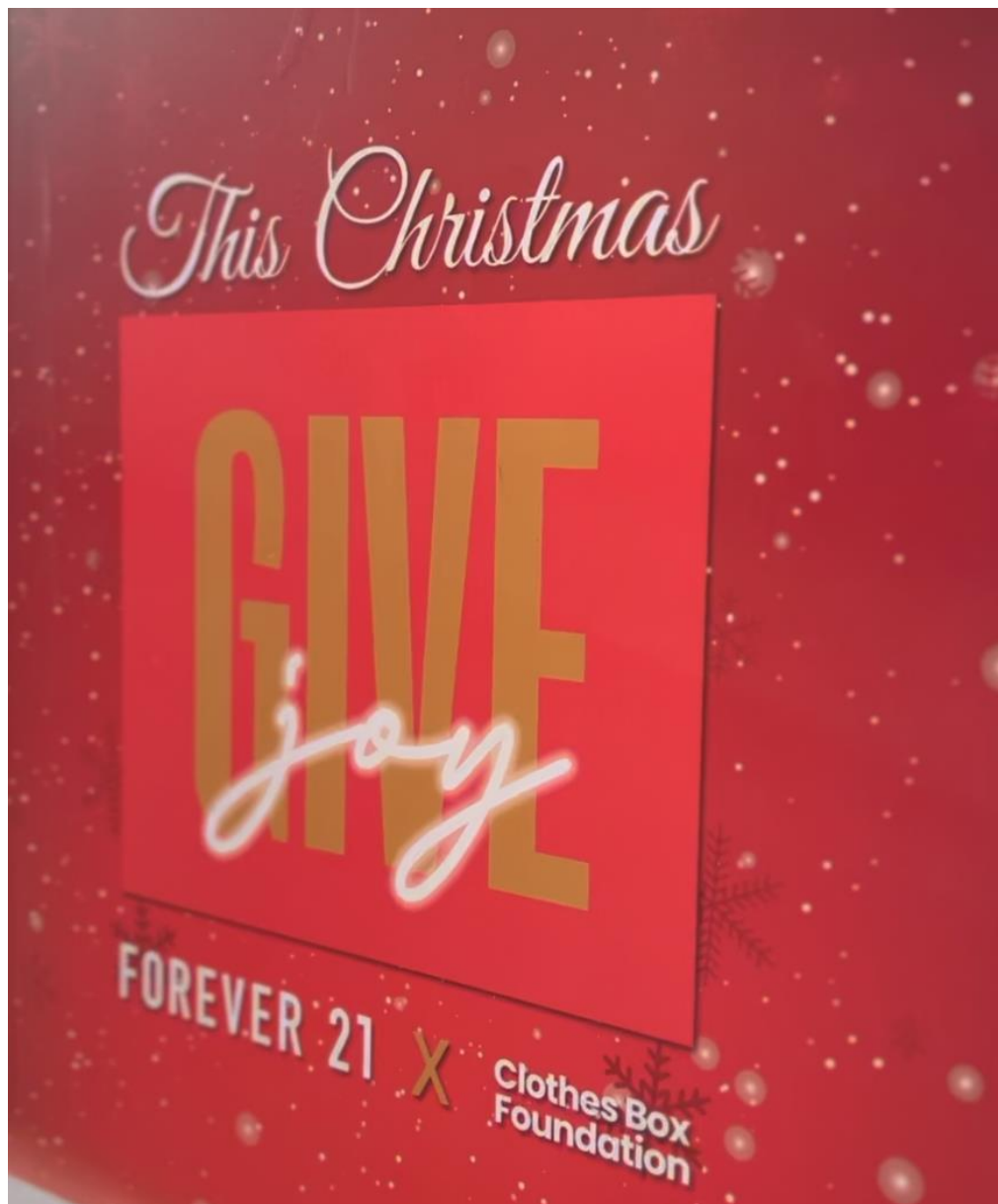
DOORSTEP PICK-UP AVAILABLE ACROSS 25000+ ZIP CODES, DONORS FROM 600 UNIQUE LOCATIONS LAST YEAR

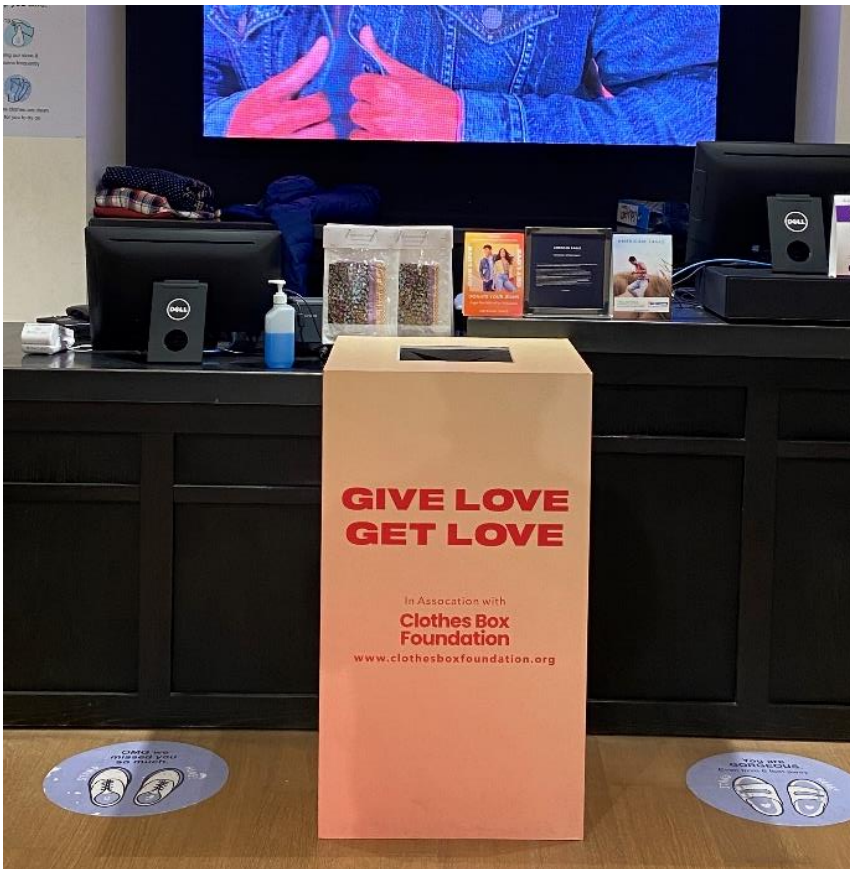
We have helped over 4.3 million underprivileged individuals with clean wearables from over 2 lac donors, and over 7 lac needy individuals with recycled utilities like bags and blankets. We repurposed 21 lac pieces of garments this year, resulting in significant savings of up to 32 KG of CO2 equivalents per 1 KG of cloth repurposed.

Overall, our collection process plays a crucial role in our mission to create a circular economy model for textiles and reduce the negative impact of the apparel industry on the environment.

Structured clothes collection was conducted with key partnerships with institutions, customers, and public and private consortia. It allowed us to gather large quantities of materials, otherwise destined for landfills, from all over the country to repurpose into utilities. Fashion brands like American Eagle and Forever 21 initiated innovative drives, and the clothes collected were sent to our facility for further upcycling.

WE COLLABORATE WITH BRANDS TO ORGANIZE COLLECTION CAMPAIGNS DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.





TOGETHER WITH INDIA: RE-DISTRIBUTION

Clothes Box Foundation to date, works towards its flagship mission – making clean clothes accessible. Clothes donated to us in good condition find their new home with beneficiaries eager to receive them. In collaboration with regional non-profits and hundreds of community outreach partners, we impact the lives of people in need in the most inaccessible parts of our country with clean clothes.

Distributing clean clothes among the underprivileged has a significant impact on their lives. It not only meets their basic need for clothing but also has several positive effects on their physical and mental health, self-esteem, and overall well-being. Clean clothes help prevent the spread of diseases and infections that can occur due to wearing dirty and unhygienic clothes. It helps improve the overall health and hygiene of individuals, especially children, who are more vulnerable to illnesses. It is an essential step towards creating a more equal and just society where everyone has access to basic necessities like clothing.



REFRESH: SKILL-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

"Refresh" is a skill-development program that provides sustainable livelihoods to marginalized women. It aims to empower women who come from families with a single earning member and a monthly income as low as INR 1200. These women come from villages and communities where patriarchal norms limit their opportunities for education and employment. Many have experienced domestic violence, child marriage, family abuse, and divorce due to extra-marital affairs. Some work as maids, field workers, daily wage laborers, or garbage pickers to support their families.

Through the Refresh program, these women have a chance to learn valuable skills and create a better life for themselves. They undergo skill as well as capacity building training which transforms them into skilled SMOs. Capacity-building sessions on personality development, personal finance, and digital literacy help them adapt to the requisites of the urban world. The program also includes visits to large factories, where the trainees can experience a real-world setup and visualize their future roles. By the end of the training, they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure employment and support their families."



Part of the project is to pay the trainees a regular compensation, thus adding more value to their learning and to the program as a whole. This is how Refresh has enabled young minds to work and support their own college education, educate their children, support their family financially and take control over their lives. The learning takes place on many levels and prepares these trainees for future job opportunities.

BENEFICIARIES ARE PAID A REGULAR COMPENSATION THAT SUPPORTS THEM FINANCIALLY



Here is a brief on our training modules.

Theory Sessions to give women a better understanding of different types of fabric, its properties like strength, flexibility, weaving patterns, resiliency, density, moisture absorbency etc.

Practical Sessions where theoretical knowledge is combined with the practical use of the textiles. Analyze and justify the fabrics suitable for making different products. Part of repurposing is to stitch the pieces of fabric, a process which requires efficient skills at sewing. The trainees learn to use sewing machines and other tools, measurement and cutting techniques to bring these products to life.

Capacity Building Sessions involve personality development which have a positive impact on one's communication skills. Personal finance skills and digital literacy to get equipped with the requisites of the urban world. It enables them to actively decide the course of their life.

Factory Visits give them an opportunity to witness and understand the whole process in a real world context. They get familiarized with the environment they would be required to work in future.

Test and Interview Preparation are essential to prepare them to develop confidence for better presentation.

Through this project we encourage these trainees/women to learn, to aspire bigger dreams, to become more self-reliant and self-confident.



34 WOMEN ACHIEVED SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD; OVER 6 LACS PAID IN COMPENSATION



STORIES OF CHANGE

Where Anisha comes from, marriage is often a pre-determined destiny. But she was conscious of the importance of education. Growing up, her parents worked hard to educate their two kids through school. She was aware of the financial crunch his father was under due to their school fees. But she did not want to give up so soon. Hence, she was looking for an opportunity that would allow her to fund her further education. That is when she learned about the Refresh: Skill Development Program at Clothes Box Foundation from a friend. Although she joined to continue college, the program became a part of her learning and growth.

Not only did she learn a technical skill that allowed her to make money, but she also evolved as a person. She was exposed to the world of banking and technology through capacity-building sessions. She participated in a spoken English workshop as well. The training allowed her to visualize the person she wanted to become as she grew up - independent, confident, and hardworking.



ANISHA

STORIES OF CHANGE

Minu, a mother of three, suffered for 18 years in her marriage to an alcoholic addict. Subject to abuse and domestic violence, he would not even let her see her parents. She had to help her parents with a loan against her husband's wishes, which added to her torture. The moneylender nagged them for repayment, and Minu had no means.

Joining the training at Refresh, where she was compensated for the hours she was putting in, helped her with the repayment. She strongly opposes the tradition of marriage unless one is independent, as more often than not, nothing but misery comes out of it. Minu hopes she comes out of Refresh empowered enough to protect her daughter from what she must endure.



STORIES OF CHANGE

Pooja had to discontinue her education during COVID-19 because her father couldn't earn enough to pay for the fees of two kids. This compromise left her searching for purpose during the first wave, with nothing to do but help with household chores.

Refresh came as a stepping stone in her life - a purpose that fulfilled her passion for stitching and her desire to support her family. While the second wave was another tough obstacle, Pooja continued her work from home and found respite from the monotony and crunch she had previously suffered.



STORIES OF CHANGE

Sangeeta married when she was sixteen and became a mother at 21. She has suffered horrid domestic abuse from a spouse with unresolved anger issues.

She enrolled herself in Refresh against her husband's will. During the initial ice-breaking sessions, when beneficiaries interacted with each other and shared their stories, Sangeeta broke down for the first time. She found her comfort zone to be vulnerable enough and share her problems. Clothes Box Foundation supported her with weekly remuneration since her husband does not support her financially, and she wants to be self-reliant. The skill-development program helped her break free of her dependencies.

During her training, besides making blankets, Sangeeta started taking neighbors' orders for blouses, suits, etc. After training, she was skilled enough to secure a job, fulfill her dreams, and create a future.



UPCYCLING

The garments unfit for direct use or the fabric collected from factories are upcycled into utilities like bags, dohars and pet beds at our center. It is an intensive process which achieves many goals at once. Repurposing the fabric give it a second life. Products made from these fabrics find a worthy beneficiary, and this mission is fulfilled with a step towards women empowerment too.

Upcycling waste fabric helps to reduce the amount of textile waste that ends up in landfills or incinerators, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and conserves natural resources. It also helps to reduce the pollution associated with the production of new textiles, result in carbon savings.

It is our way of preserving traditional crafts and skills, particularly in a developing country like India. It provides a source of pride and identity for our women trainees. It serves as their tool for education. We create unique and beautiful products that are often one-of-a-kind. By creating new products out of waste fabric, we contribute to the cultural diversity of society and offer consumers a more sustainable and ethical alternative to mass-produced products. At once, we express to the world the importance of recycling, sustainability, and entrepreneurship.



THE GREEN DOHAR

Large T shirts and other garments are repurposed to make the outer layer of the blankets. The inner layers are made from t-shirts and dupattas. While summer blankets are made with two inner layers, winter blankets are made with four.

The outer layer shows creative usage of fabric with different prints and colors, stitched together to give it an aesthetic appeal. Making the inner layer is challenging, as the fabrics used are usually delicate, hence require extra care while handling. The outer and inner layers are prepared separately and stitched together at the end.

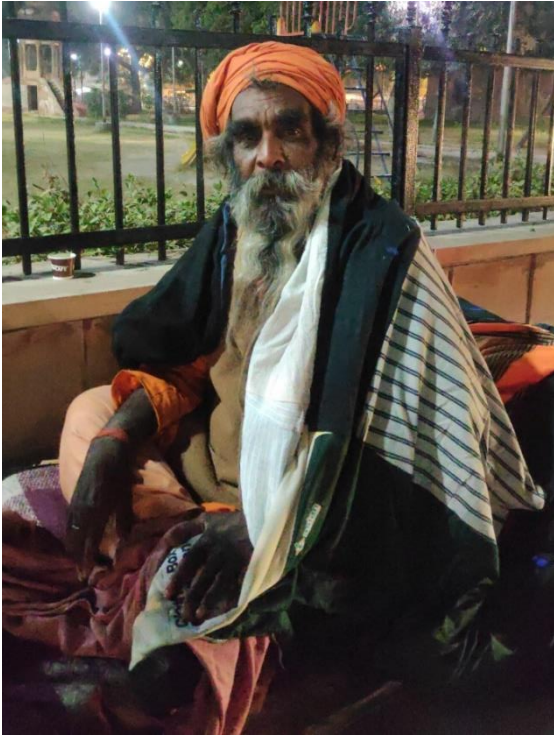
Distributing warm blankets among the underprivileged has several positive impact. It provides a basic necessity that many underprivileged individuals may not have access to, especially during the winter season. The blankets help keep them warm and protect them from the cold, which can be crucial for their health and well-being. The needy are protected against diseases caused by the cold weather, such as hypothermia and respiratory infections. This can lead to a decrease in healthcare costs and an overall improvement in the quality of life for the underprivileged. Since these blankets are recycled, they also help in reducing textile waste and promote sustainability.



DISTRIBUTION LOCATION: ASSAM



DELHI - GURGAON



NEEMUCH, MADHYA PRADESH



THE GREEN BAG

Discarded extra-large clothes are not a good fit for making dohars, so are used to make bags. Hence, first comes the selection of clothes out of which bags can be made. Extra-large pants are ideal to make the bags.

Any one type of fabric is used for making the bag. Depending on the garment size, the size of the bag is determined and the measurement finalized. Then the fabric is cut, making sure most of the fabric is used, as little waste as possible. The cuttings are then run through the machine and stitched.



Here is how a green bag helps kids from the underprivileged community.

Encourages Education: Having a school bag gives children a sense of responsibility and encourages them to attend school regularly. With a school bag, they can carry their books, pens, and other necessary items to school.

Helps Families Save Money: For families struggling to make ends meet, buying school supplies can be a significant financial burden. Providing school bags and other basic supplies can help relieve some of the financial pressure and make it easier for families to send their children to school.

Boosts Self-Esteem: For children living in poverty, having a new school bag can boost their self-esteem and make them feel valued. This can help motivate them to work hard and succeed in school.

Improves Hygiene: Many underprivileged kids do not have a proper place to store their school items, which can lead to lost or damaged items. Providing a school bag gives them a safe place to store their belongings and keeps them clean and organized.



DISTRIBUTION LOCATION: DELHI- GURGAON- NOIDA



BHOPAL - NEEMUCH



KOLKATA - DEHRADUN



MAHARASHTRA – TAMIL NADU



LAST-MILE UPCYCLING

Upcycling fabric involves dealing with different materials, used and new, to make something useful. The various processes include cutting, bundling, sewing, finishing, printing, and embroidery, resulting in scrap waste. Among all, the cutting section produces the maximum waste. And with our constant creative approach to this problem, we have tackled it to shift to a circular economy instead of a linear economy. On discovering that a lot of fabric waste is summarily burnt, we are incredibly mindful of the impact we can create. Textile production requires significant use of water, energy, and other natural resources, and post-consumption takes years to decompose. The need to repurpose every last bit of the fabric is now profoundly felt. Repurposing the last bits of fabric waste has the potential to impact the local community as well. Bori Beds, made for dogs to sleep on, are made of jute bori filled with fabric waste collected over a period of time. Going through all the stages of sorting, cutting, and repurposing the fabric, no cloth finds its way into the trash. At the Clothes Box Foundation, we take sustainability seriously and practice it until the last mile.



“LET CLOTHING NOT BE A PRIVILEGE OR SUSTAINABILITY AN AFTERTHOUGHT.”



Our Collaborations

Tackling the significant challenge of diverting fabric waste from landfill and burning requires systemic changes and much more than the efforts and capabilities of an individual organization. Clothes Box Foundation follows a realistic approach of collaborating with local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and companies that share the vision of a circular economy. While we know that with our various projects and drives, we cannot change the world, we can change the rules of the game positively.

We consider these collaborations an integral part of our sustainability efforts, and we are continuously working on strengthening our relationships for improved results and a more significant impact. We invited them to play a more active role in our projects this year. Companies and organizations have approached us to collaborate on different stages of our upcycling process.

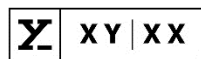
Repurposing clothes requires both intense manual work and technology. Efficiency is the key to optimum and correct upcycling of clothes into more innovative and long-lasting products. Many companies have invested in our technology to ease and propel the process. While many other companies to empower women have sponsored the training of many underprivileged women through our skill development program-Refresh.

We are continually developing new partnerships with various organizations to promote sustainability mutually. The challenge is to reimagine the value chain.

dunnhumby AMERICAN EAGLE



FOREVER 21



KEPLER | CANNON

Employee Engagement Programs

The employees of our CSR Partner can take part in our program activities to gain first-hand experience of the training. They can learn stitching from our trainees, organize group discussions, workshops, and gaming activities. The idea is to make the experience fulfilling for both sides.



Legal

Clothes Box Foundation is a Trust registered with Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon at Sr. No. 742 dated Book No. 1, Binder No. 13072 under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

Clothes Box Foundation is approved for tax exemptions u/s 12AA of Income Tax Act 1961.

All donations are exempt under section 80G of the I.T. Act 1961.

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