



## Bargain Box Boutique Volunteers Katherine “Kitty” Cole & Agnes Bingham

By Ann Kreiman  
Senior Spotlighter

When the very successful Thrift Shop at N.E. Focal Point (now the Center for Active Aging) closed its doors in September 2017, the cries of the clientele could be heard far beyond Deerfield Beach. Thrift Shop fans were accustomed to spending time each week looking for clothes to add to their wardrobe, attractive accessories, etc. and buying and going home with a treasure.

Alas and alack, there followed a down time when these friends of Focal Point had to forego their frequent visits to our Thrift Shop. Fortunately, an idea arose, to utilize one of the classrooms as a boutique. It would be furnished with the best donations attractively displayed and priced to please our customers’ pockets. Although the square footage is scaled down, the Bargain Box Boutique still appeals to those looking to find a find, something old or new and affordable.

The Bargain Box Boutique depends on volunteers for its day-to-day operation. Today’s Senior Spotlight features two of the volunteers who work side-by-side on Mondays and have become friends while helping benefit the Center for Active Aging.

### Katherine “Kitty” Cole



Katherine “Kitty” Cole hails from Philadelphia, PA, and graduated from Olney High School in 1944. During World War II, Kitty did her bit to keep up the servicemen’s morale when she became their dancing partner at the USO.

Romance knocked at her door when she met a blind date, Max. They had two children, Jeffrey and Fern. Chris, Fern’s husband, was offered a professorship at Notre Dame and the young family moved to South Bend, Indiana. Kitty has two children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Kitty did temp work when her children were growing up. She became a Nanny to two other children and later volunteered at the David Newman Senior Center in Philadelphia.

When her son Jeffrey was in the service in Germany, Kitty traveled to see him there and then went on to Ireland for a one-month stay.

In 2000, Kitty moved to Florida, settling in Century Village, Deerfield Beach. Kitty started her career as a volunteer at the nearby Percy White Library, Temple Israel, and finally turned her talents and energy to N.E. Focal Point Thrift Shop, where she amassed twelve years of dedication, and she is now continuing at the Bargain Box Boutique.

Another delightful surprise was finding a friendship with her co-worker, Agnes!

Come and see them both on Mondays and find something you must have!

## Agnes Bingham



Agnes Bingham comes to the Bargain Box Boutique via Port Washington, Long Island and Deerfield Beach, Florida.

While living at the Village of Village Green in 1988 fate happened. It wasn't the boy next door – it was the man that lived across the street – George! Nine months later, the happy couple walked to the altar. Sadly, husband George passed away after twenty years of marriage. During this time she worked at JC Penney for seventeen years and then retired.

When Agnes returned to South Florida in Century Village, her sister Rose Monturo, introduced her to the Center for Active Aging, and Agnes involved herself in many important areas of the center's operation – the Auxiliary, working for Alzheimer's support, providing assistance for the Fashion Show and Health Expo and now volunteering at the Bargain Box Boutique on Mondays and Fridays. As a result of their shared passion for volunteering, Agnes and Kitty have become friends.

Agnes tells us about a strange experience that affected her deeply two years ago, which brought back memories of her father's death fourteen years ago, prior to this event. She was returning home to Florida after visiting family and was at a New York airport, and suffering from a severe cold. She was in a daze, sleepy and when she came to, Agnes realized she had missed her plane. The airline representative advised her to go to another gate for the next plane. She was told she could get on the next flight, but they could not guarantee a seat on the flight as it was nearly full. She turned around and realized that her luggage was on the first plane. There was a nice pilot on the line and he said, "Where are you going?" Agnes said, "West Palm," and he said, "Don't worry, the luggage will be there." Then, she called her husband, but could not get through on the phone. Agnes continues, "I was just standing there and didn't know what to do." Along came this pilot again and he said, "Are you alright?" "I can't get through on the phone." He said, "I'll be right back." And he brought me a cell phone to call my husband. I did, and thanked him. After I got home, I realized that it was my father who saved the day. "My father was my Guardian Angel."