

MADE IN FAUQUIER: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ReSTORE

Non-profit sells treasures for all

By Jonathan Hunley
FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF WRITER

The notion of one man's trash being another's treasure may fit some thrift stores, but not the operation Georgianna Granillo runs in Warrenton.

At her place, she said, "a lot of the stuff's like treasure when it hits the door."

Granillo is in charge of Fauquier Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, next to the Food Lion in the Warrenton Town Centre.

Nearly two years old, the shop raises money for the nonprofit by selling new and used furniture, appliances and building supplies.

Proceeds go to Habitat's construction fund, which means right now they're helping to pay for the creation of a seven-duplex subdivision on Sterling Court in Warrenton.

Fauquier Habitat for Humanity's goal is for ReStore to generate about 40 percent of the organization's funding annually, said Brenda Drerenberger, the group's executive director.

The endeavor has helped to stabilize the nonprofit's funding stream, and Drerenberger said, "It continues to grow."

2nd birthday party

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore will hold a customer and donor appreciation day event Sept. 27 to honor the shop's second anniversary. There will be a cake, drawings and other festivities.

For more information, see fauquierhabitat.org/fhfrestore.

When contractors have leftover supplies, they can donate them to the ReStore, which means fewer usable items going to the landfill.

And if, say, a contractor buys materials at the ReStore at a discount, the savings could be passed on to customers, Granillo said, in the form of lower overall prices for projects.

The best-selling products at the Warrenton ReStore aren't building supplies, however, but furniture.



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/RANDY LITZINGER

Trinity Bailey and Kendal Strafer position two Hunt Country throne chairs and an antique toy horse at Warrenton's ReStore.

The ReStore also can always use washers and dryers, Granillo said, as well as refrigerators.

Those are quick-moving items. "We can't keep a refrigerator on the floor," Granillo said.

Some home-improvement retailers haul such old appliances away for free, she said. But if customers call the ReStore, Habitat staff can pick them up instead, which, again, nets the donor an opportunity for a tax deduction.

In addition, the ReStore even collects some items it can't use and gives them to the Fauquier Community Food Bank's thrift store so they can be sold there.

It's a way those helping to provide shelter for the needy also aid in the fight against hunger.

On Wednesday, for example, the ReStore routed a pool table to the food bank's store. It can probably bring that charity \$150 or \$200, Granillo said.

The basics

What: Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which carries new and used furniture, appliances, and building supplies

Where: 617 Frost Ave., next to Food Lion in Warrenton Towne Centre

When: Open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information: Call (540) 216-3447, or email restore@fauquierhabitat.org.

Volunteers make a difference

In addition to the six paid staff members, four or five volunteers work at the ReStore daily, said the shop's director, Georgianna Granillo.

All told, the store has a regular group of 20 volunteers who are the "backbone" of the operation, Granillo said.

Though a lot of people know about Habitat for Humanity International, and especially about its most famous volunteer, former President Jimmy Carter, Granillo said that some folks aren't familiar with the ReStore concept, as not every local Habitat affiliate has one.

So she spends part of her time marketing the store, which encompasses 15,000 square feet.

Prices there generally are about 50 percent to 70 percent off what one would find at retailers, which is good news for customers.

One of those treasures Granillo mentioned, for example, was a set of 25 kitchen cabinets that were given to the ReStore. They were used, sure, but they were still worth about \$10,000, Granillo said and her bunch priced them at \$3,000, and they were sold in two days.

On the donor side, the benefit is a tax deduction for a contribution to Habitat.

The ReStore even can bring forth positives for the environment and for future customers of building contractors, Granillo said.