

# Arizona Daily Star

ARIZONA DAILY STAR ¥ SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877

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BUSINESS, SECTION D



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Melody Personius sorts clothing before it goes into the new washing machines as job coach Ortrud Scholz supervises.

## Rotary gift is Beacon boost

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The Beacon Group, a non-profit that helps disabled people enter the work force, has some new industrial washers and dryers that will provide valuable job training for some of its clients.

The new sets of washers and dryers will also allow Beacon to wash clothing and linen donated to its Value Village Thrift Store, at 300 N. Fourth Ave., said Patrick McCarthy, the group's development director. Until now, Beacon had to throw out dirty donations, he said.

Beacon's clients will work in the laundry under the supervision of a job coach, McCarthy said. Once they finish their training and have enough confidence, the clients, who have varying degrees of mental or physical disabilities, will be able to get jobs at hotels, resorts or at commercial laundries.

"Depending on the severity of their disability and their willingness, we can find them work pretty easily once they've completed the program," McCarthy said.

The Casas Adobes Rotary Club led the fundraising effort that footed the \$16,000 bill for the laundry cleaning equipment, McCarthy said. Donations came from local and international Rotary groups, he said.

— Dale Quinn



Jane Branch carefully puts a newly washed shirt on a hanger at the Beacon Group annex.