



DEAN KNUTH / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Cashier Joyce Hildebrandt sorts through and prices clothes at Value Village at 2700 N. Stone Ave. Its grand opening is this weekend.

# Good deals still key at Value Village in its new location on Stone Avenue

By Dan Sorenson  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Value Village, the used-merchandise store that had been on North Fourth Avenue since Lyndon Johnson was president and Lew Davis was mayor of Tucson, has relocated to the former Skate Country building on North Stone Avenue.

In return for the loss of the Fourth Ave. hippie vibe and the heavenly garlic cloud from neighboring Caruso's, there's more floor space and convenient, and free, parking at the new location.

The new store, nearly finished and already open, is gearing up for its Friday, Saturday

and Sunday grand opening. Each day there'll be a different group of items with an additional 25 percent discount. Friday — it's clothing, accessories and shoes. Saturday — books, movies and music. Sunday — furniture, appliances and electronics. The store, open seven days a week, will keep regular hours during the grand opening, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Something that remains the same at the new location is a lit-

tle added incentive for those who like to shop for a cause. One-hundred percent of the

money paid for items at Value Village goes to help the disabled people the Beacon Group is dedicated to helping, said Patrick McCarthy, Beacon's director of development.

Value Village opened on Fourth Avenue in April 1965. It's a tradition, particularly for University of Arizona students furnishing the

dorms and apartments each fall semester, said McCarthy. The new store "isn't that far away" from the university and North Fourth Avenue, he said, so he hopes it doesn't lose the UA students.

The new site has to be better than the old location in recent years, when Value Village "lost a lot of business" when part of its Fourth Avenue building was leased out to other stores and the Value Village entrance was moved to a side street, said Glenn Kroeger, director of retail operations.

"And then that overpass

## IF YOU GO

- **What:** Value Village, 2700 N. Stone Ave.
- **Hours:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.
- **To call for pick-up or to donate items to Value Village and the Beacon Group:** 622-5263.

## VALUE

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killed so much business," McCarthy said, referring to the street closing while the Fourth Avenue underpass was rebuilt.

The new Value Village store has slightly less retail space, but it's much more usable, said Kroeger. Better yet, he said, the massive back shop area at the new store includes separate areas for repairing computers, electronics, furniture and other categories of goods that either need to be cleaned up or repaired.

One of the new features that McCarthy said will make a difference for customers is the set of commercial washers and dryers. He said the local Rotary Club helped Beacon get the laundry gear, something it didn't have at the old store.

In addition to letting Value Village sell clothing and bedding with a "Clean and Fresh" tag on each piece, the washers mean Beacon client workers will get experience with commercial laundry that may help them find jobs on the open market.

McCarthy said Beacon clients all have either physical or mental disabilities, and often a combination of both, and varying skill levels. Training and employing them is the goal of the operation.

Fixing computers and other donated electronics keeps Justin Hammonds, 20, busy on the test bench in the new store's backshop.

Hammonds, Beacon's client of the year, said he hopes to go to college and study computer technical support and manufacturing.

Having the space to take in and repair items results in more



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After being on Fourth Avenue for a number of years, Value Village makes its move to Stone Avenue.

items to sell, and more money to train and employ clients, McCarthy said.

One of the growing, though still small, sidelines at Beacon/Value Village is collectibles. Kroeger said they now operate online "stores" on Craigslist and eBay where more valuable and collectible items are sold. That, too, increases income for Beacon.

In the past, McCarthy said, many valuable donated items were sent straight to the sales floor to sell for a fraction of their worth.

On Wednesday, Kroeger entered a locked area where the online items are stored while their value is researched and held until sold. "That's a jump seat from a World War II transport (plane) and a mine sweeper, unused,

with the manuals," he said, pointing to a pile of "OD green" gear stacked next to a desk.

Nearby were a pair of Donald Duck porcelain salt and pepper shakers, a Japanese tea bell, a pile of autographed photos, a variety of old U.S. military uniforms and a tall box containing a set of paper dolls of actor Gabe Kaplan's character from the 1970s TV show "Welcome Back, Kotter."

"You never know what this stuff is worth" until someone looks it up, Kroeger said.

But one thing is for sure, it'll go for more on eBay or Craigslist than the 25 cents or so it would fetch on the sales floor, said McCarthy.

There are still gems to be found on the floor, however. Out front, 7-year-old Cameron

Davidson found a small blue police costume jacket he just had to have, while his mother, Miriam Davidson, tried to find some pants for the Davis Bilingual Elementary Magnet School first-grader.

"I like to take (my children) to thrift stores because they can play with toys while I shop," Davidson said. She held up a pair of nice Levi blue jeans with a \$1.48 price tag.

"But then there's the other problem with thrift stores," Davidson added, as Cameron showed her the \$2 price tag on his police jacket and pleaded his case. "Everything's so cheap you can't say 'no!'"

Contact reporter Dan Sorenson at 573-4185 or dsorenson@azstarnet.com

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Editor: Norma Coile / 520-573-4663 / business@azstarnet.com

# BUSINESS