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Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers to Open New Store in St. Paul

MINNEAPOLIS – Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers will open a new store in the fall, 2009, in the Hillcrest Shopping Center, 1650 White Bear Ave. N., St. Paul. Hillcrest Shopping Center is just south of Highway 36 on White Bear Avenue, near Aldrich Arena. It will be the fourth and largest Arc's Value Village store in the Twin Cities and the first in the east metro.

The new store will occupy more than 23,000 sq. ft., with a sales floor of more than 16,000 sq. ft. Arc's Value Village St. Paul will employ more than 40 people in management, supervisor, cashier, merchandise production, maintenance, donation receiving and general labor positions. Volunteers will play a key role too, unpacking, tagging and stocking merchandise on the sales floor. In fact, about 70% of the workforce will be volunteers. For more information about employment and volunteer opportunities, visit www.arcsvaluevillage.org.

"We look forward to meeting our new neighbors at Arc's Value Village in St. Paul," says Arc's Value Village General Manager Erin Geiser. "You'll find affordable shopping and a new option for environmentally conscious residents who choose to reuse rather than buying new."

Beth Larson will be the St. Paul store manager. Larson most recently managed Arc's Value Village in New Hope, and has worked for Arc's thrift businesses in a variety of capacities since 1998.

Larson noted the store will also have a Donation Center open daily with easy drive-through drop-off access.

“Look for the blue awning on the north side of the building, and our friendly team will help you,” Larson said. “You won’t even need to get out of your vehicle. They’ll unload your donations, give you a receipt and a big ‘thank you’ and you’re on your way.”

Donations will be accepted at the store prior to its opening in the fall. Until then, tax deductible donations can be dropped at other Arc’s Value Village locations, placed in Arc’s blue bins throughout the community or picked up by Arc’s Used Goods Pickup Service (www.bluetrucks.org). Arc accepts clothing, household items, books, select furniture, & vehicle donations.

“Follow the progress of the new Arc’s Value Village on Facebook,” Larson said. “We’ll be posting photos and letting our Facebook fans know about important dates such as when we’ll be able to start accepting donations, the grand opening and more.”

Revenue from the sale of donated items at Arc’s Value Village helps fund Arc Greater Twin Cities’ programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It’s shopping with a purpose!

Now celebrating 27 years in business, Arc’s Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers generate more than 40 percent of Arc’s annual revenues; foster awareness of Arc’s programs; and are indispensable to Arc’s effectiveness. By expanding to St. Paul, Arc is investing in and ensuring its future capacity to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Arc's Value Village also has stores in Brooklyn Center, New Hope and Richfield, which are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For maps to the stores and other helpful information, visit www.arcsvaluevillage.org.

Thanks to generous donations from the community, Arc's Value Village has worked on behalf of Arc and the people it serves for 27 years and generated nearly \$15 million for Arc programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Arc Greater Twin Cities is a nonprofit agency serving the many needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Established in 1946, Arc has been changing attitudes, changing policies and changing lives for more than 60 years. Arc helps individuals and families address issues that span the lifetime, including early intervention, education, transition to adulthood, health care, housing, employment, guardianship and more. For more information and volunteer opportunities, call Arc at (952) 920-0855 or visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org.

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