

Introducing the Habitat for Humanity MW/GW ReStore

At 9:30 a.m., a small army of volunteers shows up to prepare for the day's work. Within 20 minutes, a small line of customers has formed, ready for the doors to open. Meanwhile, the donations truck heads out for a full day of pickups. It's a typical morning at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Worcester.

The ReStore, which opened in September of 2009, is a tremendous source of funding for Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester's home build projects. Since 1985, the local Habitat affiliate has partnered with low-income families to build 34 homes as part of its mission to end poverty housing.

The ReStore is a retail outlet open to the public that sells quality, gently-used and surplus construction and home improvement materials as well as home furnishings for a fraction of regular retail prices. Located at 11 Distributor Road, the store spans over 16,000 square feet and serves hundreds of customers every day.

How Worcester Businesses can participate

Items at the ReStore are donated by local businesses, contractors, and individuals within the community. The ReStore prides itself as an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of the waste stream – it keeps thousands of pounds of reusable materials out of landfills each week.

Habitat for Humanity and the environment are not the only beneficiaries of the ReStore's mission. The ReStore will pick up donations from any of the 42 cities and towns in its service area, saving donors from burdensome disposal costs. Plus, all donations are tax deductible.

As the ReStore continues to grow, it has strengthened its relations with the surrounding community. It has become a festive destination throughout the year with seasonal sales, including last weekend's Fall for All. In the past, these events have featured special discounts, craft and food vendors, community partnership displays, and live music.

In addition, volunteers pour into the ReStore every day. They include daily regulars; corporate groups; fraternities, athletic teams, and other school groups; and religious groups. The store relies on its volunteer support for customer service, donations management, and store floor maintenance.

The ReStore is open for shopping and donations Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Acceptable donations include appliances, books, building materials, cabinets and countertops, doors, flooring materials, furniture, hardware, lighting, lumber, paint, plumbing fixtures, tools, windows, clothing, shoes, fashion accessories, and backpacks.

For more information or to donate visit habitatmwgw.org/restore, or call (508) 439-7655.

Donate. Shop. Volunteer. ReStore