

Arizona Daily Star

8 Furnishings & Design

at home
Sunday, February 19, 2006 • at home

Help from HabiStore

New spot a haven for bargain-seekers

By Erin Shire
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The HabiStore offers a ridiculously wide array of gently used home goods at reasonable prices.

Think of it, says store manager Terry Dee, as Sam Levitz meets The Home Depot. It grew out of a \$200,000 grant from Long Reatly Cares Foundation.

The HabiStore, 3840 S. Palo Verde Road, is part of the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity. Any money made by the store goes back into the Habitat for Humanity account.

The Lamps aren't as shiny or the couches as cushy as what you'd find at Sam Levitz, but they're definitely of usable quality. A decent couch costs \$100-\$200.

Only about 20 percent of the wares are new, but nothing is tattered or old, and everything is clean. You'll even find a small room of nicely preserved antiques, including a shocking pink sofa.

The front and edges of the store hold the furnishings — chairs, kitchen tables, artwork, even dishes. The middle section of the 17,500-square-foot showroom/warehouse feels like, well, The Home Depot. It has light fixtures (some as low as \$10), toilets, doors (\$30), plumbing equipment, building materials and more.

Price is the selling point.

"These doors might not be quite as nice as what you'd find somewhere else," Dee says, "but where else are you going to find one for \$30?"

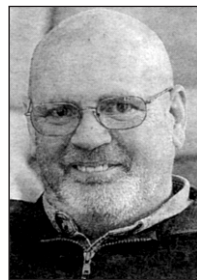
Many of those kinds of items were donated new — the store just cut the price in half.

The HabiStore also sells washers and dryers (about \$200-\$500 for a set), refrigerators and stoves as well.

Most of the merchandise is donated. Thus far, they've relied on hardware stores, like Lowe's and The Home Depot, as well as home builders, who donate furniture from model homes and supplies.

Private citizens are welcome to donate as well, though Dee asks that donations be of good quality.

"Sometimes people think of us as garbage pickup," he



"These doors might not be quite as nice as what you'd find somewhere else, but where else are you going to find one for \$30?"

Terry Dee
Store Manager



Marcelle Flores looks through books for sale at the 17,500-square-foot HabiStore, which features donated items at bargain prices. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity projects.



Photos by A.E. Araiza / Arizona Daily Star
Milt and Sandy Mein find just the first fluorescent light fixture for their son's home at the HabiStore.

says. "We follow the 80-20 rule. If 80 percent of the the stuff is good, we'll go ahead and take the other 20 percent."

All contributions are 100 percent tax deductible. Call 889-7200.

The store opened Feb. 3 — with 20 people waiting outside.

HabiStore is open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays.

► Contact reporter Erin White at ewhite@azstarnet.com or 807-8429.