

Habitat for Humanity purchases former Sisters Drug building

Sisters Habitat for Humanity has purchased the former Sisters Drug & Gift building on the Corner of Cascade Avenue and Fir Street, with plans to move the Habitat Thrift Store to the new location in early 2019.

Tim and Deanna Muir owned the iconic building from 1985 and ran Sisters Drug & Gift until the business was sold in 2008. The building came up for sale in 2018.

In a statement, Sisters Habitat said the organization “is deeply grateful to the Muirs for their generous efforts to make this transaction possible.”

“We are excited about this project. It will provide more opportunities for community members to donate and volunteer. Without these individuals we wouldn’t be building affordable homes with Sisters’ families. It’s great to see a spirit of cooperation and support for Sisters Habitat, our stores and families,” said Habitat Board of Directors President Roger Fairfield.

The Muirs told Habitat, “We are so thrilled that we could be a small part of this moment of Sisters history. We were so blessed to have the opportunity to own this iconic property then to have Habitat for Humanity continue its legacy.”

The new Thrift Store space is expected to be complete sometime after the new year. Sisters Habitat’s Construction Manager Darlene Snider and construction volunteers will update the interior to include a greatly expanded sales floor (approximately 5,000 square feet), a sorting room and a receiving area for donations with added workspace for volunteers (approximately 3,000 square feet). While the building of three Habitat homes will continue on pace, their progress slows down in the winter months which fits nicely with the remodel needed for the store, the organization reports.

Thrift Store donations at the new site will be accepted behind the building in the

alley between the store and Melvin’s by Newport Avenue Market.

The original Sisters Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store was opened in 1993 by Sisters Habitat volunteers. It was located in a small house on Main Avenue where the Thrift Store is today. The store quickly got so packed full with donations that the volunteers decided to tear the building down and build a larger store. The current store opened in 1997 when Sisters’ city population was 827. Now, habitat reports “more than 20 years later, the volume of donations from generous and supportive citizens far exceeds the space available, and the donation drop-off area is less than ideal. With the new Sisters Habitat Thrift Store location, it will be possible to display and sell donations, more clothing, housewares and other popular items to adapt to the growth of the surrounding Sisters Country. Donating will be much easier, and volunteers will enjoy the extra room for sorting, cleaning and pricing.”

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Revenue from the Sisters Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store and the Habitat ReStore provides more than \$250,000 each year for its home building program. These homes are sold at no profit to partner families and financed with affordable mortgages that are

issued for 30 years. To date, 65 families have purchased homes from Sisters Habitat for Humanity.

Sisters Habitat also relies on grants, homeowner mortgage payments and cash donations from individuals and businesses to support all their work.

“With the expansion of the Thrift Store, it is projected that sales will grow exponentially,” Habitat states. “This translates to more affordable homes built each year, while still allowing low-income families and bargain-hunters an affordable place to shop for high-quality used merchandise and clothing.”

The Sisters Habitat ReStore, selling furniture, lamps, appliances, tools and



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The former Sisters Drug building will offer Sisters Habitat for Humanity about 8,000 square feet for retail sales, sorting, and receiving.

more, will stay at its current location at 254 W. Adams Ave. in Sisters. Given the Habitat ReStore location is also at its capacity, a decision will be made by the Sisters Habitat board of directors in

2019 for the future location of the Habitat ReStore.

For more information on Sisters Habitat for Humanity, visit www.sistershabitat.org or call the Habitat office at 541-549-1193.

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