

Local

Salvation Army to open new location

By Fanny S. Chirinos (Contact), Rachel Denny Clow (Contact)
Monday, June 1, 2009

Salvation Army's new store



[» View Photo Gallery](#)

CORPUS CHRISTI — Salvation Army officials are counting on a new thrift store to increase revenue from such stores from about \$2,400 a year to \$250,000 annually. The additional money will go toward services the organization provides to the community.

Salvation Army officials last year began looking for a site for a new thrift store but when they found it, they didn't have anything close to the asking price of \$2.9 million. They took a chance and made an offer about \$1 million below the site's appraised value.

It turned out they were dealing with a Salvation Army-friendly seller.

"We just offered it with a prayer and hoped it would be accepted," said Capt. Michael Morton with the Salvation Army. "They accepted the offer without a counteroffer."

Morton would not disclose the purchase price, but the building has an appraised value of \$1.2 million, according to the Nueces County Appraisal District's Web site.

On Tuesday the new store at 5042 S. Padre Island Drive, the former site of Furniture Row Outlet, will open its doors. Morton anticipates increased traffic, customers and revenue because of the location.

Lynann Pinkham, a broker associate with NAI Cravey Real Estate, said the building had been vacant for the past year since Furniture Row moved into its location at 7602 S. Padre Island Drive. Pinkham represented the furniture store in the sale.

The organization's other thrift store, at 4310 Kostoryz Road, is somewhat obscured and doesn't bring in much traffic, Morton said. It costs about \$19,800 a month to operate and brings in about \$20,000, leaving about \$200 a month in profit.

Morton said it will remain operating after the new store opens because it meets the goals of the Salvation Army — to offer good quality clothes at an affordable price and to help overall operations with its profit. The additional \$20,000 or so profit a month the new store will bring in will help provide services to more people.

“About 100 people a day come to us for food, clothing or shelter,” Morton said. “We not only care for the homeless, but also the working poor. The average age in our shelter is 13.”

And the purchase hadn’t happened without faith, Morton said.

Furniture Row Outlet spokesman John Knippenberg said the company has a long association with the Salvation Army across the country and officials were happy to help the organization meet its needs.

The company also is partnering with the nonprofit group on a Donate and Save initiative, Knippenberg said. People who donate a piece of furniture to the Salvation Army in June or July will receive a \$50 or \$100 coupon redeemable at Furniture Row Outlet in Corpus Christi, he said.

Morton said the program is intended to help fill the new 20,000-square-foot store. The new store will create about a dozen jobs, he said.

To donate

People interested in donating items to the Salvation Army can do so at the following locations:

--Salvation Army Thrift Store

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday;

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Address: 4310 Kostoryz Road

--Salvation Army Thrift Store

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Address: 5042 S. Padre Island Drive

The Salvation Army also offers pickup service for large furniture items. For information on this service, call 851-0723 or 884-9497.

Fashion Show

What: Salvation Army Fashion Show and Luncheon

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

Where: Thrift store, 5042 S. Padre Island Drive

Cost: \$20/person

Information: 884-9497