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Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers Opens in Saint Paul on November 21

ST. PAUL – It's official! Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers will become a part of the rich retail history of White Bear Avenue with the opening of Arc's fourth and largest Twin Cities store 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. The store will celebrate with a Grand Opening on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009.

"White Bear Avenue has long been a good place to do business," noted Arc Greater Twin Cities Chief Executive Officer Kim Keprios. "It's a historic shopping area and Arc is thrilled to be a part of its revitalization. Arc's Value Village gives local residents a place to shop, donate and volunteer. We're known for quality merchandise and great value. Best of all it is shopping with a purpose™ because proceeds benefit people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through Arc."

The Grand Opening will begin with Arc's 10 blue trucks coming from the north and south on White Bear Avenue to meet at the new store. They will create a cordon in front of the parking lot to help visitors find their way to the store in time for the 9:00 a.m. ceremony. Saint Paul City Councilman Dan Bostrom, Arc's Value Village store manager Beth Larson and Arc board chair Steve Hayes will untie a "ribbon" of scarves, napkins, neckties and other items available for purchase at Arc's Value Village and the store will officially open!.

In addition to the great shopping you always find at Arc's Value Village, there will be a full schedule of grand opening events on Nov. 21, including drawings, offered throughout the day.

- The first 300 shoppers will receive a free Arc's Value Village reusable shopping bag stuffed with coupons and goodies.
- At 10:30 a.m., customers will be invited to play "The Price is Right" with Fox 9's M.A. Rosko. Contestants will guess the Value Village price of clothing and other merchandise from various store departments. Winners receive prizes!
- Drawings for a \$100 Arc's Value Village gift card and other prizes.
- Displays on decorating for the holidays with thrift purchases and items donated by prominent persons, available for purchase.
- Santa will make a visit to Arc's Merry Thriftmas™ shop inside the store. To connect with the store's location on White Bear Ave., kids also will be encouraged to look for a large white stuffed bear somewhere in the store. If they find him, they will get a treat!
- In honor of the site's past as a Lee's Restaurant, which was known for pecan pie, pecan tartlets and hot apple cider will be served in the morning.

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!™

Thanks to generous donations from the community, Arc's Value Village has generated nearly \$16 million for Arc programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. 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.

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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