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Readers leave no thrift store unturned

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I've gotten lots of positive feedback to my recent columns on thrift shopping and thrift donating in and around Nashville.

And I've also gotten questions about why I didn't list the **Habitat for Humanity** stores, such as the Habitat HomeStores in Nashville and Renovation Station in Franklin, which sell donated building supplies and home furnishings.

Well, I assure you it's nothing personal; it was just that, because of space limitations and because I've written so much about Habitat's stores, I thought I would focus on the more traditional thrift stores.

In hindsight, perhaps I should have included them, because they have great merchandise, from new and used doors and windows, paint and plumbing and light fixtures to desks, housewares and window treatments. I urge you to check them out, and to donate.

The stores all accept building materials and household and office goods, but no clothes. For a full list of the Habitat stores, click on the related link in the right column of this page.

Now, here are a few **more thrift stores** that readers recommended:

- The Bethesda Center, 124 S. Main St. in Ashland City. Great prices — all adult clothes \$2, all children's clothes \$1, shoes \$1, books 50 cents and \$1. Operated by the Ministerial Alliance of Cheatham County. Open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday and 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday. 792-1389.
- Gallatin CARES thrift shop, at 241 W. Eastland in Gallatin. Open 7:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Monday–Friday and 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. 452-5732.
- The ARC Thrift Store at 1694 Ft. Campbell Blvd. in Clarksville. This is a small store, but prices are great — most clothing is 50 cents-\$2, and shoes and purses are 99 cents. Hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Thursday and Saturday. 931-905-0900.
- Josephine's Closet at the back of the Hope Pregnancy Center shop, at 325 N. Second St. in Clarksville, carries gently used infant–size 12 clothing. 931-645-2273.
- I've also found out about **another free birthday deal**: You can enjoy a free movie on your birthday at the brand-spanking-new Providence 14 movie complex in Mt. Juliet. Show your ID and get in free.
- And now that it is chilly, several readers have asked **where to get free kindling**.

Madison Mill on 42nd Avenue North just off Charlotte Avenue has a seemingly bottomless pile of wood blocks that you can pick up anytime. These are all kiln-dried and small enough to load into a sack or box.

The other free kindling place is Stephens Millwork and Lumber at 104 Sunset Drive off Dickerson Road. It has larger pieces (10- to 16-foot lengths). Stephens officials say people usually either come in a truck or bring a chain saw so they can cut them into manageable sizes.

Stay cheap! •

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