

Meet our new web site



We just launched our new and improved web site.

So what, you ask? Well, your life just got easier.

Not only is donating online faster and simpler, the new site offers lots of new ways to get involved:

- Read about the difference your dollars make
- Set up automatic donations on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis
- Tell us which programs or issues interest you
- Sign up for monthly e-newsletters
- Find us on Facebook
- Search for the perfect volunteer position
- and more!

Visit www.voaspokane.org today to get reacquainted!

Thrift store reopens: West Valley location offers bargains, parking

We're back! Our thrift store has finally found a new home at 6206 E Trent Ave. (just east of Fancher—the street that runs parallel to Home Depot and Costco) in the Spokane Valley.

The new location replaces the building on North Atlantic Street that suffered a roof collapse on December 27, 2008—leaving the store, which works to help the homeless, suddenly without a home itself.

Proceeds from the store support the work of Volunteers of America in more than a dozen housing and support programs for homeless and vulnerable populations—including Crosswalk teen shelter and Hope House women's shelter.

The new store is big and bright

with lots of parking. Bill and Theresa Mitchell have managed the store since 1978 and have nearly a century of second-hand industry experience between them. They knew that the condemned building and total inventory loss meant they had a long journey ahead of them.

"I want to thank the people of Spokane for being patient with us," says Theresa.

It took sixteen months to find the new location. The couple and a small staff spent most of the spring renovating the 21,000-square-foot space, rebuilding their inventory and calling their loyal customers.

Now, they beam as they stand in the middle of a brightly-lit, clean showroom filled with clothing, house

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Bill and Theresa Mitchell have managed the Volunteers of America Thrift Store since 1978. They are happy to resume business as usual at the store's new location near Trent & Fancher in the Spokane Valley.

WITHOUT YOU...

You make a difference! We rely on your help. Last year, volunteers contributed the equivalent of:

- 800 employees
- 16,300 man hours and
- \$140,000 in labor costs

None of that would happen without volunteers like you!

To find out how you can pitch in, call Linsey Strader, volunteer coordinator at 509.624.2378 ext. 111 or visit www.voaspokane.org to find the perfect opportunity.

When you serve lunch, bring winter clothing or send a check to benefit the homeless teens at Crosswalk, you may not realize that you are also helping to create a safe, inviting place where youth can get back to work on their educations.

This year, Crosswalk was proud to have xx high school graduates and xx GED recipients—all of whom completed their studies through programs at Crosswalk thanks to on-site teachers from Spokane Community College. For the past twenty years we have



celebrated this educational achievement with at Canada Island in Riverfront Park, complete with blue caps and gowns and, of course, cake.

And there are lots of reasons to celebrate—having a diploma or GED can mean an open doorway to jobs and a ticket out of homelessness. We want to thank you for making that happen.

But just because they've graduated, doesn't mean our kids don't need you anymore. We are proud that as many as eight of these graduates will be receiving scholarships through our Turnaround and Trent-Gillespie scholarship fund. You can continue to help Crosswalk kids rebuild their lives by supporting these two scholarship programs. *To learn more visit www.voaspokane.org/scholarships.*

Thrift Store now open in Spokane Valley, cont.



The new thrift store, located at 6206 E. Trent in the Spokane Valley, is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 7pm. For more information, or to arrange a pickup, call 509.327.4112

wares, musical instruments, vintage finds and other treasures. It has been a long road from Atlantic to Trent and the Mitchells are eager to resume their thirty-year relationship with their donors, employees and customers.

During the past year and a half, the store received inquiries from all over the region and even as far away as Minnesota. Folks wanted to know when their favorite thrift store was reopening.

"People love this store," says Theresa. "They come from all over because it's not just a way to find bargains. It's entertainment. It's therapy. We have regulars who come very day just to see what's new."

So, now that we're back in business, how can you help? "We need a little bit of everything, every day," says Bill. The store carries antiques, artwork, baby items, bicycles, books, children's goods, DVDs, furniture, house wares, jewelry, musical instruments, plus sizes, rugs, shoes, toys, vintage items and just about anything else you can imagine.

To arrange a pickup, call 509.327.4112 or stop by the store Monday through Saturday between 9am and 7pm.

Thank you for remembering “I Remember Mama”

Thanks to your gifts Mother’s Day was magical for 130 low-income seniors who would have otherwise spent the day alone. Your sponsorships allowed these women the luxury of gifts, companionship, entertainment and a delicious lunch at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park. Each of them was deeply grateful for your generosity. Your gifts uplifted these women’s lives.

For a full list of our generous donors please visit www.voaspokane.org/IRM2010.



Three happy “Mamas” enjoyed their lunch at a table with volunteer hostess Anne Whigam (right) one of 40 volunteers and planning committee members who made the event possible.



Dave Erickson of KXLY takes a moment to get to know one of the “Mamas.” Dave has emceed the event for three years and the ladies love him!



Your donations made it possible for 130 low-income senior and disabled women to attend this year’s Mother’s Day luncheon at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park.

THANK YOU! I Remember Mama 2010 Sponsors



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525 W SECOND AVE
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We want to hear YOUR story!

"We once braved a blizzard to serve a meal at Crosswalk. Handing a bowl of homemade soup to a cold, hungry kid was worth every mile..."

If Crosswalk has been part of your life in the past two and a half decades, we want to hear your story. We are gathering memories, experiences and recollections in preparation for our fall celebration of Crosswalk's silver anniversary.

If you have a story to share, please write to us at "Crosswalk Stories" 525 W 2nd Ave, Spokane, WA 99201 or email khohbach@voaspokane.org.

Donate securely online at
www.VOAspokane.org



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