

Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle with ReStores



Visitors to the Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores – Northeast, 6250 Tutt Blvd., Colorado Springs, 80923, and South, 411 W. Wahsatch, Colorado Springs, 80903 – might notice decorative dragonflies hanging from the ceilings. These upcycled projects are made from ceiling fan blades, table legs, and other reused items – and they’re just one of many projects illustrating how old items can be given new life.



“I’ve always been huge on repurposing and recycling,” says Andria Vincent, ReStore Northeast manager. And the ReStores are an excellent source of supplies. “You can find glue sticks here. You can find hot-glue guns here. You can find little nails and little hammers and make things with tiny hinges,”

she says. “Just walking up and down the aisles, you can find so much stuff here...It’s not just doors and windows and furniture. It’s unique hardware, unique tile.”

Upcycling requires creativity and imagination to transform an item, or parts of an item, into something new. Vincent and Toby Drury, the ReStore South manager, not only enjoy seeing what customers come up with, but they’ve completed their own upcycling projects, too. Some of the ideas they mentioned include

- Turning a hutch into a cage for a bird or rabbit, or a vivarium for a snake
- Transforming a dresser into a hallway bench
- Adding shelves to a bifold door and using it as a corner shelving unit
- Filling tubs or toilets with soil and using them as raised planters
- Repurposing a tub as an outdoor pond
- Turning an entertainment center into a child’s play kitchen

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Artist Relies on ReStore to Refurbish Home

Ania Milo moved to Cascade in 2021 after a government career. Now a full-time artist, she spent nine months transforming a house on her property into an eclectic, colorful getaway – with products from the ReStores.

“I was like a child in a candy store,” she says, “because I knew that I was getting a great bargain, so I didn’t have to limit myself.”

Furniture wasn’t all she found. Light fixtures, décor items, paint, cabinets, flooring, faucets, siding, and even tools came from the Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores. She estimates the restoration cost a third of what it would have if she had bought new items.



Milo added kitchen cabinets and a backsplash from the ReStore. She painted the cabinets dark blue to match the home’s color scheme. Photo courtesy Ania Milo.

She said she enjoyed “just being free to choose the things that I wanted to buy and choose the things that I wanted to do in here because I didn’t have to worry about the cost.”

But saving money wasn’t her only motivation for shopping secondhand.

“I loved restoring the furniture. Giving them a new life and making them my own is what motivated me to do it,” she says. “What’s really important is that this didn’t end up in the landfill somewhere.”

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your donation
helps a family build a strong foundation for the future.



The ReStores Need Your Donations!

Do you have gently used or even new home improvement items you no longer need? Has spring cleaning turned up building materials you forgot you had? Are you upgrading your cabinets or sofa?

Please visit pikespeakhabitat.org for guidelines, then plan a drop-off or schedule a pickup today!

Pikes Peak Habitat Honors Our Volunteers at Appreciation Event

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 20 at The Pinery at the Hill. The event, which took place during National Volunteer Week, provided an opportunity for us to thank the volunteers who devote their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the construction site, the home repair program, and the ReStores. Our volunteers are vital in helping us work toward a world where everyone, everywhere has a decent place to live – and we cherish their contributions.



Above, VAE guests chat before dinner. Above right, guests serve themselves in the buffet line.



Above left, longtime volunteer George Hammond (l) sits with Sam Adams. Above, a guest arrives.



Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat executive director/CEO, and Eric Stolp, board vice president, recognize the 2023 Volunteer Award winners. From left, Chaplain Kevin Hostettler receives the Millard Fuller Award; the Young Men's Service League and the Air Force Academy Cadets were named the ReStore Northeast and South (respectively) Volunteer Groups of the Year; Ent Credit Union was recognized as the Construction Volunteer Group of the Year; Jim Nolan won the Journeyman Award. Not pictured are fellow Journeyman Award winners Jack Keaton and Susan Farrar, and Heather Berens, winner of the Chris Brownlow Golden Hammer Award.

Veterans Celebrated at Event

Pikes Peak Habitat recognized our volunteers who are also military veterans by giving special t-shirts at the Volunteer Appreciation Event April 20. On the back of the blue shirt, a red silhouette of a military service member salutes in front of an American flag printed in white. The text reads, "Serve. Protect. Build."

Dusty Last, ReStore volunteer coordinator and a veteran, says, "As veterans, we served to protect our nation, and now we build for those who have served and protected our nation."

She adds, "I love the concept of honoring our veterans that are continuing to serve. In building a home, they're protecting....A decent place to live is one of the best forms of protection a family can have."



Thank you,



for being the 2023 Earth Day Corporate Sponsor!



Because of Keysight and all of you, our ReStores recorded 465 donations from April 17-22 in spite of Colorado's notorious spring weather! Proceeds from the ReStores help fund Pikes Peak Habitat homes, so by donating, you're supporting affordable homeownership for workforce families in El Paso County!

Reuse, Recycle, ReStore

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“Corner kitchen cabinets can be turned into kids’ toy bins just by switching out some hinges and turning them on their side,” says Vincent. “There are simple things that you can make.”

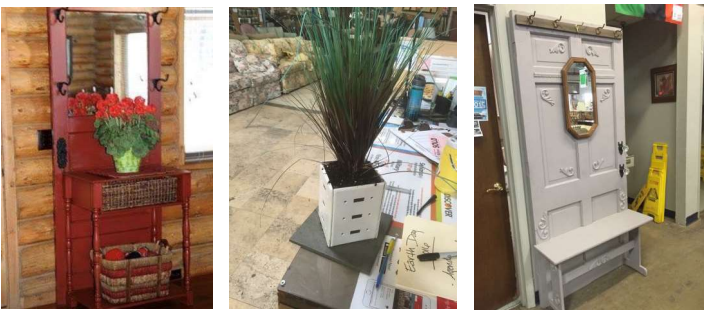
In addition to offering inspiration and products for customers looking to reuse and repurpose, the ReStores also serve as recycling centers for paint, porcelain, and metal, including copper.

“We are the largest PaintCare recycler in the state of Colorado,” says Vincent. For perspective, she explains that it takes 155,000 gallons to paint the Pentagon, the world’s largest office building. In 2021, Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores recycled 188,000 gallons. “So this tiny affiliate was able to recycle more paint than it takes to paint the world’s largest office building!” she says.

Donations are recycled into Green Sheen paint, available for purchase at the ReStore South. The stores can only accept five gallons of paint per customer per day, but Drury points out that’s five gallons total – so if someone has ten cans with half a gallon or less, they meet that requirement.

In addition, the ReStores work with Colorado Springs Utilities to recycle porcelain, including high-flow toilets and sinks, into road base. “A lot of people don’t realize, because we’re around porcelain and use it so much, how dangerous it is,” says Vincent. “If we were to put a sink or a toilet into the landfill today, 500 years from now it’s still a sink or a toilet because it does not biodegrade at all. So by bringing it to us and having it go to ‘commode the road,’ they’re recycling it into something we use.”

Reducing waste – through reusing, repurposing, upcycling, and recycling – is important to both Vincent and Drury.



Above, upcycled projects use old doors, benches, and light-switch covers.

ReStore Goes Online!

The Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores will soon be adding a new storefront – online! We’ll be listing unique, eclectic, vintage, and unusual finds, including the items pictured here. When the store goes live, the link will be posted at pikespeakhabitat.org/restore.



“I would like to see less things going in the landfill and less things produced. I think we really need some changes in our society to be able to come up with a better way of doing things,” says Drury. “We’re over-inundated with things. We now over-produce, and half of it goes to waste. I would really like to see more ways to keep more of that from happening.”

That’s just one way the ReStores fill a valuable niche, accepting and reselling items such as building supplies and old toilets that most other thrift stores don’t take. The ReStores keep gently used home goods and construction materials circulating in the local community, and they connect vintage items with people who appreciate the heritage.

“You don’t know what you’ll find from day to day,” says Drury. “You see history when you’re in the ReStore.” He mentions donations including antique gas lights from around 1908, removed during a remodel of the Colorado Springs City Auditorium, and signed photographic prints of the Pikes Peak Road Race that came from a local resort.

Vincent says the stores also have received unique contributions from individuals who have cleaned out their basements and attics. Many of these items will be available online (see above) rather than in the brick-and-mortar locations.

“We get the old speckled tile that nobody can find because they don’t make it anymore,” shea says. “There’s unique stuff that comes in that you would never [otherwise] see in your lifetime.”

She adds, “It’s super neat, and people still don’t realize that about the ReStore, and it’s so fun. I love the ReStore!”

Artist's Refurbishment

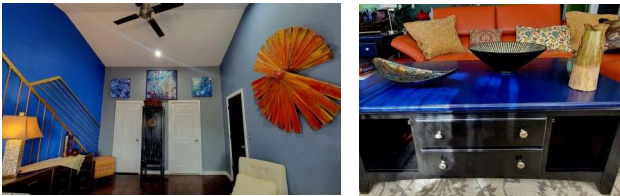
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"It's very important to me not to throw things away, because we're such a use it once and throw it away [society]," she says. "I'm a full-time recycler. I love to go poke around. I can spend hours in these stores looking through things and picking things out."

She also appreciates the personal touch from staff at the ReStores. "It's nice when I walk in, because I've been there so often that the regular workers there know who I am and remember my name," she says. "Being new to the area, that makes a big difference for me that people remember who I am."

She says they've already started asking about her next project – and she knows what it will be: "to put a greenhouse on the side of the barn." She plans to use ReStore windows and lumber for the project.

And she wouldn't mind doing more home refurbishments. "This was so much fun, doing this!" she says. "I almost want to do it now for other people. I'm available for hire!"



Above left, Milo created wooden wall decorations using lumber from the ReStores and refurbished a living room coffee table (right) to match the room's color scheme. Photos courtesy Ania Milo.

Car Donations Help Habitat Build Homes

Pikes Peak Habitat participates in Habitat for Humanity International's Cars for Homes program, which accepts donated vehicles to resell or recycle. Proceeds help fund Habitat's homeownership and home repair programs.



Cindi, an El Paso County resident, recently donated her truck to the Cars for Homes program. The vehicle is in good condition, and she could have sold it herself but instead chose to support Habitat's work.

"I...am moving early next year so I no longer need this truck," Cindi says. "Many people approached me to sell but I'd rather donate to a worthy cause."

Pikes Peak Habitat thanks Cindi for her generosity! Her donation not only supports affordable homeownership for workforce families but also positively impacts the environment. As Habitat's Cars for Homes donation page explains, "Recycling cars keeps a huge amount of steel out of landfills – enough to build nearly 45,000 steel-framed homes every year. The energy saved each year is enough to power approximately 18 million homes!"

Since launching the program in 2005, Habitat has accepted more than 120,000 vehicles for resale or recycling. In the past five years alone, the program has raised more than \$30 million.

Learn more at Habitat.org/CarsForHomes.

Veterans' Home Repair

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For her sweat equity, Jennifer participated in COS-ILoveYou's CityServe event April 29 and also is helping with therapeutic horseback riding.

While the project, which spans more than two weeks, has caused some chaos in their home – requiring them to move furniture away from outer walls, for example – the couple characterize the experience as overwhelmingly positive.

"You guys are genuine and you just want to help," Jennifer says.

"I'm very grateful that I'm getting this opportunity to help with my house and my family, and I just honor being in the military and all this falling in my lap, and being blessed with all this goodness that we're getting for our family," says Ed. "[I'm] just overwhelmed. I need a helping hand, and then all of a sudden it happens. It's like a blessing."

They plan to stay in the home, which they share with an adult son as well as Sandy, Jennifer's mom, for the rest of their lives.

"This is our forever home," says Jennifer. "I'm glad we made this move. My heart's a little more content and at ease around this place."