

# Park Cities People

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## Catholic Group to Open Local Thrift Store

Ribbon-cutting ceremony set for Sept. 29

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A charitable effort that drew volunteers from near and far will bear fruit Sept. 29 when the Society of St. Vincent de Paul opens its first thrift store in North Texas.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the nonprofit shop at Northwest Highway and Ovella Avenue.

The event is open to the public and will include Mexican food, a mariachi band, and other family-friendly entertainment.

Once open, the 26,000-square-foot store will provide gently used clothing, household items, and furniture to underserved men, women, and children who live in blighted areas near Bachman Lake, predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods.

“The thrift stores’ merchandise is sold at very low cost to the working poor,” said Roger Playwin, national executive director for the society. “If you can’t afford it and you need it, we give it to you.”

The 20 employees of the Bluffview store will work with the society’s other conferences affiliated with area Catholic churches to identify families in need.

The conferences can provide vouchers to families that can be exchanged for goods at the store.

“It will be a big asset to the society and we will be sure to let our clients know that it’s available for them,” said Pat Rodriguez, coordinator for the food pantry at Holy Trinity Catholic Church’s St. Vincent Center in Turtle Creek.

The store’s merchandise is donated, and money from sales is used to pay for programs to help clients achieve self-sufficiency.

Those programs include “dress for success” seminars, English classes, and assistance finding jobs.

“There are a lot of people that have needs, but may not know what they need,” said Daniel Burds, chairman of the store’s board of directors.

The store is housed in a building that was once a warehouse for restaurant supplies.



Photo: Timothy J. Jones

Cashier **Cynthia Vasquez** rings up **Debbie Edom** and sons **Jake Hughes**, left, and **Ryan Hughes** of Carrollton at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Bluffview.

The building was outfitted with a sprinkler system, heating and cooling systems, and insulation.



**Alba Camargo**, left, and **D.A. Morck** review pricing instructions at the thrift store.

Since March, volunteers from across the country have prepared the shop to open by soliciting donations in Bluffview and Preston Hollow and sorting merchandise, among other activities.

“A project like this is exactly in line with what our program is about,” Katelyn Moroney, a volunteer with a Catholic-based philanthropic group, said at the store in July. “We want to help the store as much as we can to get ready to open.”

The store is the society’s 14th in Texas.

State Rep. Rafael Anchia, Dallas City Council members Pauline Medrano and Steve Salazar, and former Mayor Laura Miller are expected to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

There are nearly 450 St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores nationwide.

The society, established in Paris in 1833, claims more than 650,000 members worldwide, more than 120,000 of which live in the United States.

The first American conference began in 1845.

*This article contains information from archived reports.*

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