



## **Thrift Stores**

The thrift stores reviewed below encompass only ones I've visited personally in the Pittsburgh–Western Pennsylvania/Cleveland–Eastern Ohio region.

However, my visitors from outside the region-- I don't want to leave you hanging; for you I recommend you visit <http://www.TheThriftShopper.com>. This web site houses a national online thrift store directory. Simply enter your zipcode and you'll discover the thrift stores within a 15-mile radius of your location. There's also an online forum for thrifting fans to discuss their finds, and a webzine of thrifting articles.

If you know of a thrift store in the Western PA area that I've overlooked below, just contact me. It may just be included in future site updates!

### **Beaver County Humane Society Thrift Store**

914 7th Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA, (724) 846-0202

It hasn't been open regularly when I've gone down the road to the Antique Emporium, but when it is open, it's worth a stop. There's a mix of clothes, household items and collectables. Prices range from very good to a little high, depending on item. Sales benefit the local Humane Society.

### **Goodwill**

- 7221 McKnight Rd, Pittsburgh, PA (412) 635-9612

- 2700 E Carson St, Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 481-5390
- 3801 William Penn Hwy, Monroeville, PA, (412) 856-9840
- 8755 Norwin Ave, North Huntingdon, PA (724) 864-2980
- NEWLY ADDED 8/20/07- 1570 Oakland Ave., Indiana, PA (724) 463-6212

It certainly inspires good will in me! The stores are typically more commercial than your standard thrift stores, and are very well-organized. The book sections are often impressively large. And it's possible to find everything from furniture and table settings, to vintage curtains and the occasional antique. Our local Goodwill stores also get donations of brand-new but discontinued items from Target. Goodwill is also the only thrift store I know of that is open on Sundays. And you can even buy things from Goodwill online-- it's sort of an Ebay auction-type set-up-- <http://www.shopgoodwill.com/> . I haven't bought anything from the online venue myself, but I have gone through the site. My general impression is that there are some interesting items there, but that buying is competitive, and prices get bid up fast, possibly beyond the cost you could get them at an actual Goodwill store.

Note: The Goodwill in North Versailles closed in May 2007.

### **Good Samaritan Thrift Store**

500 Lincoln Hwy North Versailles, PA, (412) 829-1898

I wish I had known about this place when I was right out of college. Every time I see their pretty vintage china and housewares, I think how much less of a cave my first apartment could have been. There's a little of everything in this shop. And it makes me smile the way, like their antique store distant cousins, they use china cabinets to display their wares. Prices range from inexpensive to a little high as far as thrift stores go. But it's a nice little adventure. Plus, Goodwill is just a few stores down, making the trip even more worthwhile.

### **Price is Right Thrift Store**

1930 Lincoln Highway, North Versailles, PA

This store opened in October 2006, and since has undergone a reorganization. I might end up moving this to the antiques page eventually because the store has shifted toward a more collectible/vintage item focus and has less general thrift. Some interesting items here and it will be interesting to see how the shop continues to evolve. The prices are more reflective of Ebay or an antique mall, I'd say than, for instance, the Salvation Army or Red White and Blue.

### **Red White & Blue**

- 890 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 381-1060
- 935 Ohio River Blvd., Bellevue, PA,

I still mourn the loss of the Red White & Blue's Duquesne location, which closed due to expansion of Kennywood Park. It used to be a terrific source for vintage candelabras, china, and interesting prints. But recently I came upon the Red White & Blue in Bellevue, which is a large, busy store with a wide array of stuff. The shoe section and bedding/textile areas were, I thought, particularly impressive. The Red White & Blue on Saw Mill Run (Route 51 S) is awfully good, too, but wow, is it competitive there. It's jam-packed with stuff, and people, almost any time I've gone. And, unlike the Bellvue branch, the parking situation at the 51 store is just tragic. There's one small lot and very few parking alternatives, so people basically line up to take the next available space, or have to park up the hill on the left side of the store. I'm not trying to dissuade you from going there; I just want to set expectations. In summary: great thrift store, if you can get into it.

### **Salvation Army Thrift Store**

- 44 S 9th St., Pittsburgh, PA, (412) 481-7900
- 6150 Mountain View Dr., West Mifflin, PA, (412) 466-0216
- 12751 Route 30, North Huntingdon, PA, (724) 863-6116
- 1927 7th Ave., Beaver Falls, PA, (724) 847-1325
- NEWLY ADDED 8/20/07- 1912 River Road, North Apollo, PA, (724) 478-3776

Salvation Army Thrift Stores seem to vary more in quality by location than Goodwills do. The one in Beaver Falls seems to be

undergoing renovation. The West Mifflin location (right above Century III mall in the old Wickes Furniture Store building) is a Superstore, and wow, is it-- very large, huge housewares section and gets some decent furniture in there, too. The one on 9th Street on the South Side is small but on two floors, with the ground floor housing furniture and housewares, and the upstairs dedicated to clothes. The merchandise moves very quickly at this location, so if you see something you think you want, you'd better grab it; it won't be there later.

### **St. Vincent DePaul**

- 1730 Golden Mile Hwy, Monroeville, PA, (724) 733-8585
- 631 Clay Ave, Jeannette, PA (724) 527-5776
- 116 North Plaza, Apollo, PA

The Monroeville location of this thrift store is usually buzzing. Housewares and collectables line the walls, and clothes racks fill the center. I've found this place has been particularly good for textiles like curtains, doilies, fabric and tablecloths. Most of the furniture that comes in appears to be 70s cast-offs, but occasionally something worth refurbishing, or less retro, comes in. The one in Jeannette just moved to its Clay Avenue location. It's a big building and one of its most notable features is there's a very large furniture section on the second floor. The one on North Plaza in Apollo just moved there in late 2006 and seems to be doing a good business. If anyone has a valid phone number for that branch, please let me know. The one I'd had was out of order.

[www.thriftshopromantic.com](http://www.thriftshopromantic.com)

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