

# Saskatoon Home magazine challenged **three** Habitat for Humanity **employees** to revive something from the **ReStore** and **repurpose** it.

BY GAIL JANSEN

# CHALLENGE



Photos: Jessica Storozuk

If you're building or renovating a home, you know all too well how expensive the cost of building materials can be. That's why Habitat for Humanity's ReStore offers those who visit a chance to purchase those materials for a fraction of the cost, while at the same time recycling and repurposing that which would otherwise end up in the landfill. Best of all, any money you spend at the ReStore offers support to Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization which helps to provide affordable housing for those in need.



Before



After

## 1. Kathleen Crowther: (Resource Development Coordinator, Habitat For Humanity)

**Project:** Jewelry Holder and Pet Caddy

**Project Description:** A jewelry holder that allows Crowther to easily organize and display her jewelry. The pet caddy holds the water and food dish off the ground for her dog.

**ReStore Materials Used:** Antique window, paint, hooks, and a cabinet door.

**Cost Savings:** Crowther purchased her materials for \$15, while a similar item on Etsy ranges in price from \$30-\$100.

**Thoughts About Project:** "Not only do I have a useful way to display my jewelry, it also serves as an art piece. I love finding things in the ReStore."

"I have a beautiful thick slab of marble sitting in my office that I couldn't pass up," says Crowther. "It came out of the King George Hotel when they were renovating it into lofts, but I still don't know yet what I'm going to do with it."

Most of my best projects happen," she adds, "when I find materials or objects, and immediately know what I'm going to do with them."

By creating both unique one-of-a-kind home décor items and functional pieces from repurposed materials, not only has Crowther and other ReStore shoppers helped to divert more than 250 tons of reusable materials from the Saskatoon landfill in 2009, they've also been able to save themselves a ton of cash.

With a good mix of new and used items and an inventory selection that rotates constantly, it's the perfect place to check before doing any at-home projects big or small.

"Many artists come here to find materials for their projects," says Crowther. "I think of it like a little like Winners – you just have to keep coming back to see what's new in stock."

*Saskatoon Home magazine challenged three Habitat for Humanity employees to revive something from the ReStore and repurpose it. See the before and after photos above and to the right.*

Accepting both brand new and gently-used building materials and home furnishings as donations from corporations, small businesses, organizations and individuals, ReStore in turn sells them to help fund the administration costs of Habitat for Humanity. Here at the ReStore in Saskatoon, Kathleen Crowther, resource development coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, says people can expect to find things like windows, doors, paint, hardware, lumber, tools, lighting fixtures, and more.

And while many of the items donated are suited to larger renovation projects for the do-it-yourselfer, many are also suited for those with more of a creative flair, who can see beyond an item's original use, and repurpose it into something totally new.

For some, the ideas will flow immediately upon seeing a piece, while for others, the beauty lies in the piece itself, and the knowledge that it will become something wonderful, one day when the perfect idea is found.

## 2. Gerry Ecker: (General Manager of ReStore)

**Project:** Bed Frame

**Project Description:** A king-sized wooden bed frame.

**ReStore Materials Used:** Two antique doors, 4 banister railings, 2 long rails from a water bed.

**Cost Savings:** Ecker purchased his materials for approximately \$40 while a similar bed frame purchased new would cost \$400-\$500.

**Thoughts About Project:** "It's something that's very functional, yet beautiful and shows what diversifying your thinking can do when you use recycled goods."



## 3. Al Dudley (Construction Manager)

**Project:** Picture Frame

**Project Description:** A frame that can hold three photos.

**ReStore Materials Used:** Window frame, glazier points, paint.

**Cost Savings:** Window frame was free, while glazier points and paint came to \$7.50. A triple frame in this size would normally run between \$50 to \$75.

**Thoughts About Project:** This was a project idea that I had had for some time – I was just waiting for the right materials to make it happen. Quite often, as was the case here, my initial vision will change, in this case it went from a whimsical idea to a family theme which suited the person it was intended for much better.



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