

## San Bernardino salvage store plans to recycle goods, more

By Ryan Hagen , The Sun

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SAN BERNARDINO >> Taking discarded parts and using them to make something new and valuable is the philosophy of the ReUse store that opened Tuesday in more ways than one.

The store, at 660 E Orange St., at the edge of the Waterman Gardens housing complex, sells salvaged goods from torn-down older buildings and other sources — lumber, doors, refrigerators, cabinets — at significant discounts.

They also certify workforces in deconstruction, which ReUse People of America President Ted Reiff said gave marketable skills to more than 300 underemployed workers and 77 contractors nationally in 2013.

“Local people are trained to do deconstruction here, so it’s salvaged and redistributed from here to the local economy,” Reiff said. “So families on a budget — and I think we all are now — can have an opportunity to buy the product for literally cents on the dollar.”

Then, that training can be used on vacant or blighted properties in the area, Reiff said.

And finally, there’s an environmental benefit to reusing materials and not clogging landfills, he said.

Many of the products now at the site come from the deconstruction of a [Redlands rental complex](#) built in 1942 and run by the Housing Authority of the Community of San Bernardino. That will soon be supplemented by materials from the coming deconstruction of Waterman Gardens, where the Housing Authority plans to replace 252 units from 1943 — and, officials hope, the crime and reputation the complex has long carried — with the same number of new units alongside additional senior housing, condominiums and market-rate rentals. The San Bernardino City Council [approved](#) that plan in February.

There are also materials from Beverly Hills and other high-end areas, leaving some good finds, said Khamisi Howard, a warehouse worker from San Bernardino who graduated from ReUse’s training.

“There’s some high-end stuff in here,” Howard said.

As he spoke, guests at a ribbon-cutting ceremony were already snatching up items, including a solid oak desk (in need of refinishing, but sturdy) for \$10.

The next round of reusable materials should arrive in the next few days, said retail manager Kelly Simone, who led a tour of the facility and its toilets, sinks, light fixtures, bricks and more.

The warehouse will be open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ReUse won the contract after the Housing Authority posted proposals, said Gustav Joslin, the authority’s assistant deputy executive director.

“We found out they’ve literally written the book on how to reuse property,” Joslin said. “This is going to be an ongoing benefit.”

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