PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Two Habitat KC ReStores in the Kansas City area accept donations and sell surplus and salvaged building materials. Contractors, remodelers, individual homeowners, retail stores and wholesale outlets donate new and used building materials and furniture to ReStore. These materials are kept out of the landfill, eliminating the disposal costs for the donor and conserving landfill space and natural resources. The public can purchase these materials at a reduced cost, making home improvement more affordable, and increasing pride and value in Kansas City’s neighborhoods.

Habitat KC ReStore also operates deconstruction services, a contracting arm of ReStore to dismantle houses or parts of houses, by hand, in order to recover the highest possible percentage of reusable material. The various donation options are designed to make choosing to reuse as easy as choosing to discard. ReStore offers free collection services, store drop-off hours and remote collections at various sites throughout the metro area.

PROJECT GOALS:
• Support the construction and rehabilitation of homes by Habitat for Humanity Kansas City through the collection and sale of new and used building materials diverted from the waste stream, keeping them out of landfills and in circulation where they can benefit local Kansas City communities.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND LESSONS LEARNED:
Since 2000, Habitat KC ReStore has diverted more than 21,000 tons of building materials from area landfills and created 26 new green jobs.

All proceeds from Habitat KC ReStore go towards Habitat for Humanity Kansas City’s mission to eliminate poverty housing by providing quality homes to create stable, sustainable neighborhoods in the inner city.

The increasing level of acceptance for used building materials continues to grow green-building practices in commercial and residential sectors and is becoming more mainstream. Economic factors combined with environmental sensitivity have resulted in more donors willing to change their habits and more customers creating demand for affordable, yet high-quality, material options to maintain properties.

FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS:
Habitat KC ReStore has received grant funding from the MARC Solid Waste Management District, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Partnerships include the City of Kansas City, Mo.; Kansas City chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI); Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; Southtown Council; Waldo Business Association; Lowe’s Home Improvement and JE Dunn among many others.

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