



## **Savers, Inc. Celebrates 250 Stores with Three Locations Opening Today**

*One new Savers store in New Hampshire and two new Value Village stores in Canada are latest in secondhand retailer's multi-national expansion*

**BELLEVUE, WASH. – Sept. 9, 2010** – Good deeds converge with great deals today in three different cities, as Savers, Inc., an international secondhand store chain, celebrates the grand opening of three new stores and a major milestone for the company. With a new Savers store in Newington, New Hampshire and two new Value Village stores in Oshawa, Ontario and West Winnipeg, Manitoba, Savers now operates 250 locations in the U.S., Canada and Australia. Also known as Village des Valeurs in Quebec, the company has expanded significantly by opening 19 stores this year alone, and at least that many new locations are planned for 2011.

Savers stores have a unique business model of purchasing, reselling and recycling donated items. Every location partners with a nonprofit organization in its community, such as the Epilepsy Foundation (Newington), Canadian Diabetes Association (Oshawa) and Big Brothers Big Sisters (West Winnipeg), and each store pays its nonprofit partner for secondhand items donated, which include clothing, housewares, furniture and more. Partners are paid for donations collected directly by the nonprofits or received at the nonprofit organizations' Community Donation Centers, located on-site at Savers stores. These partnerships turn otherwise unused goods into sustainable funding that supports the nonprofits' important programs and services in their local communities. Last year, Savers purchased more than \$127 million of donated goods from its nearly 130 partners, and has paid more than one billion dollars to nonprofit organizations since the company's founding in 1954.

"Today is such a special day for our company, as we celebrate 250 stores and join three new communities where we can offer the best selection and shopping experience of any secondhand store," said Ken Alterman, President and CEO of Savers, Inc. "For more than half a century, we've taken great pride in working with our nonprofit partners, and are pleased to offer residents in our new communities a great way to support local organizations through our relationships with The Epilepsy Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association and Big Brothers Big Sisters."

Carrying everything from men's, women's and children's clothing and accessories, to housewares, electronics, furniture and more, Savers, Value Village and Village des Valeurs stores stock more than 5,000 new items to the sales floor daily, ensuring customers continuously find a refreshed assortment of quality, value-priced goods. Additionally, each store, including the new Newington, Oshawa and Winnipeg locations, houses their nonprofit partner's Community Donation Center, which helps support community programs and provides a convenient place for residents to drop off their gently used clothing and household goods free of charge. In Newington, donations benefit The Epilepsy Foundation; in Oshawa, the Canadian Diabetes Association; and in West Winnipeg, Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"The Epilepsy Foundation is proud to partner with the new Savers store in Newington," said Susan Welby, Director of Programs for The Epilepsy Foundation. "Our partnership with other Savers stores in the region provides a consistent stream of funding that supports our vital work. We look forward to expanding our relationship with Savers and continuing to grow the services we offer throughout New Hampshire."

Savers' multi-national expansion comes in conjunction with a rising thrift shopping trend, which is one of the fastest growing retail segments. In fact, according to NARTS: The Association of Resale Professionals, the resale industry has seen approximately seven percent growth per year in the number of stores for the past two years. Additionally, according to America's Research Group, a consumer research firm, between 16 and 18 percent of Americans shop at thrift stores during a given year, compared with 11.4 percent who shop in factory outlet malls; 19.6 percent in apparel stores and 21.3 percent in major department stores.

Lifestyle, economic and social trends have contributed to the growth of thrift shopping, including the popularity of do-it-yourself ("DIY") projects, "shabby chic" décor, renewed interest in vintage clothing, and importantly, environment- and budget-conscious consumers. Last year alone, Savers kept more than 500 million pounds of unwanted items from ending up in landfills, making it one of the largest recyclers of used goods in the world.

The new stores in Newington and Oshawa will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the West Winnipeg location is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, customers may contact the stores directly:

- Newington Savers and Epilepsy Foundation Community Donation Center  
2064 Woodbury Avenue  
Newington, NH 03801  
(603) 427-0814  
[www.savers.com](http://www.savers.com)
- Oshawa Value Village and Canadian Diabetes Association Community Donation Center  
1199 Ritson Road North  
Oshawa, ON L1G 8B9  
(905) 443-0264  
[www.valuevillage.com](http://www.valuevillage.com)
- West Winnipeg Value Village and Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Donation Center  
3629 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB, R3K 2G6  
(204) 831-7561  
[www.valuevillage.com](http://www.valuevillage.com)

### **About Savers, Inc.**

Founded in 1954, Savers, Inc. is a privately held for-profit international secondhand store chain with 250 locations in the United States, Canada and Australia. Also known as Value Village in the western United States and Canadian provinces (and as Village des Valeurs in Quebec), the company employs more than 13,000 people. By purchasing and reselling donated items, the company has paid more than \$1 billion directly to its nonprofit partners – turning otherwise unused items into pure sustainable funding that supports their programs and services. The company also offers local communities a smart way to shop and is one of the largest recyclers of used goods in the world. Visit [savers.com](http://savers.com) or [valuevillage.com](http://valuevillage.com) for more information.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Sara Gaugl | Savers, Inc.  
425.456.1706 | [sgaugl@savers.com](mailto:sgaugl@savers.com)

Ian Jeffries | Edelman, for Savers, Inc.  
206.268.2291 | [Ian.Jeffries@edelman.com](mailto:Ian.Jeffries@edelman.com)