

# Thrift store gives 'HOPE' to Hospice

By Jessica J. Burchard  
*The Winchester Star*

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**Stephens City** — Nearly a month ago, passers-by began knocking at the door, eager to shop.

They had their chance on Wednesday when the Stephens City Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Shop opened at 760 Warrior Drive, No. #4. About 300 people were expected to browse and shop in the 6,000-square-foot store between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. "My friend and I were driving by and saw the sign out front," said Julie Davis. "We decided to stop by when they opened."

She and a neighbor crowded into the store during its grand opening. While others looked at clothing, Davis loaded a small plastic shopping basket with children's videos and DVDs. "I have a lot of kids who come over, so I like to have movies on hand," said Davis, 42. A Stephens City resident, she has been shopping at the hospice thrift store in Winchester for years, but is happy to have one closer to home. "I do shop periodically in Winchester, but I'll probably do it more here because it's closer," she said. Davis goes to the thrift store because her family members benefited from hospice services when they lived in North Carolina and her mother was dying of breast cancer. "I really appreciated what they did for my mother," she said. "Shopping here is for a good cause."



Ann Hawkins-Viau (left) gets some help from Kristen Vance, controller for Blue Ridge Hospice, as she shops during Wednesday's opening of the Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Store on Warrior Drive near Stephens City.  
*(Scott Mason)*

Blue Ridge Hospice, based in Winchester, provides in-home care to terminally ill patients in the city and Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, Clarke, and Page counties. The organization also has services in western Loudoun County. In Winchester, the organization operates an eight-bed residential center. The Stephens City shop is the third the hospice has opened this year. Other thrift shops opened in New Market in April and Berryville in June. The hospice also has thrift stores in Winchester and Purcellville. "We've kind of modeled it after England in how we do our hospice thrift stores," said Ernest J. Carnevale Jr., chief executive officer of the organization. "There's one in every community there." All of the hospice shops accept donations of clothing, toys, housewares, furniture, and other items. The items are usually contributed by the family members of people who received hospice care before their death. The items are sold and the money is used to maintain and expand the hospice's services.



In 2006, the Winchester and Purcellville stores produced more than \$125,000 for the hospice. Figures for the other stores were unavailable.

Anthony Crosen, director of development for the hospice, believes the atmosphere in Stephens City makes it a good location for the thrift store. "Stephens City has a great community area here," he said. "We're trying to build awareness." In addition to the 4,500 square feet of display space, the store has a resource center with a list of hospice services, a calendar of upcoming events, and informational pamphlets.

The store drew praise on Wednesday. "I like it because it's so big," said Linda Crowe, 65, of Frederick County. "It's bigger than Winchester's store." The Winchester store is about one-third the size of the Stephens City store. Although no one in her family has used hospice services, Crowe is very supportive of the organization. "I came because I'm helping out an organization I believe in," she said. "I believe it's the best in the community."

### **Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Shop**

\* Address: 760 Warrior Drive, No. 4, Stephens City.

\* Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Donations can be made from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

\* Contact: Blue Ridge Hospice at 540-536-5210.

\* Thrift stores help raise money so Blue Ridge Hospice can support the terminally ill. Last year, two stores brought in \$125,000.

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