

SOME GOOD PLACES FOR CHEAP USED FURNITURE (& BIKES) IN THE TWIN CITIES

(Comments by Tom Lindstrom and Glenn Kenadjian with China Outreach Ministries)

I. THRIFT STORES (Stores that sell used belongings—mainly furniture, household items and clothes.)

A. "Unique Thrift Store" (A little more expensive than Salvation Army or Good Will Thrift Stores, but frequently better selections on furniture. On holidays, everything is half price.)

- 2201 37th Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights, MN 55421; 612-788-5250 (West of Silver Lake Road near Stinson Ave. County Rd. D becomes 37th Ave N.E. west of Hwy 35W). Has used beds, often in great condition. Also often has bikes at good prices, and TVs. 25% senior discount on Tuesdays.

- 1657 Rice St., St. Paul, MN, 55117; 651-489-5083 (Near Larpenteur Ave.) This store has a lot of furniture. Bikes are usually fewer and more expensive than at the other Unique stores for some reason though.

- 4471 Winnetka Ave. N., New Hope, MN 55428; 612-535-0200 (North of the intersection of 42nd and Winnetka, on the west side of Winnetka) Like the Columbia Heights store, but larger. Often has lots of bikes and furniture. It is not uncommon to find a decent bike here for under \$5, but usually in need of a minor repair, such as a flat tire.

B. "Good Will Industries" Thrift Stores (Like second best. Go to <http://www.goodwill.org/> for directions / maps.)

- 553 Fairview Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 (1 block north of University Ave.); 651-379-5808 (Their old location was on Como Ave.) They do have a good amount of furniture usually.

- 1627 County Rd. B West, Roseville, MN 55113; 651-634-3609 (1 block west of Snelling Ave. near Har Mar Mall)

- Farther away suburban locations are: 1025 Hill St., Hopkins, MN 55343, 651-935-2760; ~8 miles SW of East Bank
1361 Robert St. S., W. St. Paul, MN 55118, 651-451-2014; ~9 miles SE of East Bank
77 85th Ave. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433, 763-780-1108 (west of Northtown Mall); ~10 miles North of East Bank
7324 Lakeland Ave N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428; ~10 miles NW of East Bank
2250 White Bear Ave N., Maplewood, MN 55109; ~10 miles NE of East Bank

C. "Salvation Army" Stores (Usually do not have a lot of furniture. But they have used bed frames for \$10, which is a good deal. Often located in poorer neighborhoods. Go to www.satruck.com/FindStore.asp for directions and maps.)

- 900 N Fourth St., Minneapolis, MN 55401; 612-332-5855

- 2822 Washington Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55411; 612-529-4077

- 3740 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409; 612-822-1200

- 3929 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421; 612-782-3828

- 1654 White Bear Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-771-7779 (~11 miles NE of East Bank, south of Larpenteur Ave.)

D. "Savers" (Some new stuff. Organized better. These stores are clean. Daily specials. However, it is better for clothes more than furniture. Go to www.savers.com/howeare/us/mn.php for maps and directions.

- 2124 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407. At Hi Lake Center on Lake Street 2 blocks west of Hiawatha Ave. 612-729-9271

- 4849 Central Ave. N., Columbia Heights, MN 55421; 763-571-1319

- 235 Maryland Ave. E, St. Paul, MN, 55117 near Hwy. 35E (west side of intersection by K-mart); 651-488-6293

E. St. Vincent DePaul's Thrift Stores: (These have furniture.)

- 2939 12th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55407 (Has a furniture room. Near Lake St. and Chicago Ave); (612) 722-7882

- 461 7th St. W, Saint Paul, MN 55102; (651) 227-1332

F. Other Chains of Thrift Stores: You can find more listed in the Yellow Pages phone books under "Thrift Stores"

II. University Reuse Center

The University has a warehouse where desks, chairs and other equipments that are no longer needed in a building are stored. They are then distributed to other university buildings as they have requests or they are sold to students for VERY cheap prices. However, they are only open to the public on Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM!

The warehouse is entitled, "University Hospital Distribution" and it is at 883 29th Avenue SE Minneapolis, MN 55414; 612-626-9152; www1.umn.edu/reuse. A few blocks west of Hwy 280, it is the third building on the right going south from Como Ave. on 29th Ave.

Note: This is a great place for chairs and desks! However, many of the desks are too big for apartment use. They are too heavy to move and cannot fit in the doors of many apartment rooms.

III. Mattresses

(Note: In America, beds for one person are called "twin size". Married couples will want a "full size" or "queen size" bed. "King size" is too large for apartments. All specific prices mentioned in this list are from August 2009. Call first to make sure they have what you want in stock.)

1. Marty's Secondhand Store

935 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 (3 blocks east of Lexington Ave.), 651-647-1771

This is a great place for high quality used mattresses. Highly recommended! Prices are \$85 - 95 for mattress, box-spring, and metal frame sets in twin, full and queen size when you mention the name of China Outreach Ministries. They also deliver for \$35.

2. Furniture Central

2506 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, 612-706-9100

You can get a new mattress/box-spring set in twin size for \$149, in full size for \$179 and in queen size for \$199. Probably the cheapest new beds you can buy are here and at the next store on this list.

3. Martin Furniture and Bedding

454 Topping St. Paul, MN 55101 (east of Dale St. and near Como Ave.); 651-489-6036

New mattress box spring sets cost \$117 - \$202 for twin size, \$150 - \$259 for full size, and \$173 - \$275 for queen size. The cheaper sets are quite thin, but the more expensive ones are quite plush. They have mid-range sets too.

4. Hotel Furniture Liquidators

They are at 1800 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104 - about 6 blocks west of Snelling Ave. 651-645-9929.

Have some used mattress/box-spring sets for \$139 for full size, extra long. Reconditioned/rebuilt sets are \$159 for twin size, \$199 for full size and \$239 for queen size. (A rebuilt mattress is a used mattress that has the exterior stripped off and replaced with new material.) Metal frames are \$35 for twin/full size and \$45 for queen size.

5. Affordable Mattress

908 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55117 - about 1 mile south of Maryland Ave. 651-487-9595

You can get a rebuilt mattress/box spring sets at \$139 for twin, \$149 for full, & \$159 for queen size. New bed sets start at \$279. Occasionally they have returned beds that are really good deals. They also deliver for \$35.