Second-hand stores – For some, they are the place to go for old designer duds and other great vintage finds and for others, an inexpensive way to pick-up “new” clothes. But as 20 billion pounds of used clothing and textile are ending up in landfills each year, they are increasingly becoming the poster children of ethical consumerism, battling overproduction and industrial waste one recycled t-shirt at a time.

Founded as Savers in 1954, Value Village (www.valuevillage.com) is one of Canada’s biggest chains, second-hand and non-second-hand combined. Big, bright and crammed wall-to-wall with everything needed to fill your home or closet, a trip to your local outlet can easily turn into a daylong outing. But hidden amongst the racks of clothing and shelves of books is the little-known fact that Value Village has contributed over $115 million dollars to non-profits and has prevented 280 million pounds of unsold merchandise from being dumped in landfills.

While most are aware of the charitable-nature and social consciousness behind Goodwill and Salvation Army stores, Value Village’s goodwill, if you will, remains undiscovered by many. They have more than 120 “non-profit alliances” in Canada, the U.S. and Australia, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Canadian Diabetes Association here at home. Items donated to these organizations (via pick-ups or designated drop-off boxes) are then sold to Value Village.

Value Village
THE THRIFT DEPARTMENT STORE
Save
30%
Value Pass