



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Article by

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### **People Not Sales Drives This Thrift Store**

*Civitan Foundation's thrift store does more than selling sustainable goods,  
it builds skill and confidence for individuals with special needs.*

PHOENIX (January 30, 2018) - Most thrift stores have a sameness to them: they sell used clothing, furniture, books and kitchen items and the like. The workers you meet in these shops are generally volunteers and very nice, and the stores most often raise funds supporting not-for-profit organizations. This would be your typical thrift store in the Phoenix market.

However, there is a store which offers something different. Flerish Design and Resale is a thrift store, too, but the workers who greet you at the door have special needs. The store is one of the training centers for the Civitan Foundation, which provides a variety of vocational, recreational and educational services for the developmentally disabled.

At Flerish, located at 12621 N. Cave Creek Road in Phoenix, Civitan "members" have job coaches which help them with tasks. These tasks may include instruction on how to properly take inventory, fold and hang clothing, where to put items, as well as how to properly greet a customer and being timed in how long it takes to carry out some of these tasks. In addition, while the members are working at Flerish they are being paid by Civitan.

A major part of the Civitan Foundation's mission is to provide the highest level of vocational skills, matched to each participant's individual goals and aspirations. Programs are structured to showcase the member's talents, while they earn fair compensation for the skills they have worked hard to learn. Currently, there are more than 140 weekly shifts of Civitan members working at Flerish.

Civitan strives to develop programs which help developmentally disabled individuals build confidence and life skills to enrich their lives and live more independently. Other vocational programs offered through Civitan include: Janitorial and custodial, fleet vehicle interior and exterior cleaning, light grounds keeping, clerical and reception, and food services and catering.

Flerish Design and Resale may be like most other thrift outlets by connecting community donated goods with sustainable shoppers, but we're different. Not only does this store help fund Civitan programs, it also provides and promotes employment opportunities for people with special needs.

Learn more about the programs and services of the Civitan Foundation, as well as Flerish Design and Resale at [www.CivitanFoundationAZ.org](http://www.CivitanFoundationAZ.org).

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#### About Bo Larsen

Bo Larsen joined the Civitan Foundation in November 2017. He previously served on the Civitan Board of Directors for five years before joining the organization. Larsen has more than 30 years of marketing and media experience, including CNN in Atlanta, director of public relations for Banner Thunderbird Medical Center and director of marketing communications for the City of Peoria.

#### **About Civitan Foundation, Inc.**

Civitan Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to provide our community an accessible, safe and affordable environment while delivering superior life experiences to enhance the quality of life to individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages. Founded in 1968, Civitan is committed to leading Arizona in the provision of unmatched, innovative services to individuals with special needs, becoming the foremost visionary and resource for this valuable community. Civitan's flagship programs include Camp Civitan, a residential camp experience in Williams, Arizona, and the Civitan Foundation Village, a multi-disciplinary day program and vocational training and employment center with opportunities in digital multimedia productions, visual and performing arts, a culinary institute, and sports and health programs. Civitan also offers respite and recreation programs (RSP), home and community based services (HCBS), and food and nutrition programs. Learn more at [www.civitanfoundationaz.com](http://www.civitanfoundationaz.com).