

Marshalls opening Thursday

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SANTA CRUZ — Marshalls, which sells designer apparel and home fashion at a discount, plans a grand opening for its new Santa Cruz store at 1664 Commercial Way from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday.

The 22,252-square-foot store, in the former Circuit City location next to Toys R Us, is Marshalls' first in Santa Cruz County.

At 7:30 a.m., before the doors open, Marshalls plans to present a \$5,000 donation to Dominican Hospital Foundation.

The store will feature a "Shoe MegaShop," with nearly a quarter of the space dedicated to shoes for the entire family. Another section, "The Cube," is a boutique geared to young women with apparel organized by style with accessories instead of by size.

Marshalls merchandise changes frequently because stores receive up to 10,000 new items each week.

"It's like visiting a whole new store every time," said Thea Houghton, spokeswoman for TJX, Marshalls parent company.

Store buyers have relationships with more than 12,000 vendors in 60 countries, talk to them daily and buy closer to the fashion season, she added.

The store will be staffed by 60 full-time and part-time employees. Regular hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

The grand opening in Santa Cruz is one of four planned Thursday by Marshalls; two are in Ohio and one is in New York City on the Avenue of the Americas.

Marshalls is the second largest off-price family apparel retailer in the United States, behind its sister company, TJ Maxx.