



Things to Think About!



By Brandan Atkin

A good choice for donating your used wheelchair to anyone in the world who needs it is Wheelchair Foundation. Visit them at www.wheelchairfoundation.org

For more information about how to donate, contact your assistive technologies director for your state. A list of state assistive technologies directors can be found under the specific state links in the Resource Links section of the website.

This list is incomplete and changes often so check back if you can't find what you are looking for.

If there is anything that is not discussed in our newsletters and you would like to see it discussed, or you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please contact us at snrproject@hotmail.com

Don't Let It Rust, Donate It!

By Linda Jorgensen

Don't let your older, outgrown, medical equipment go to rust!

Recently my daughter and I attended a medical equipment vendor fair held for Special Education/School District Therapists in our area. About half way through the session I found myself standing next to an Occupational therapist who was watching my daughter navigate around the room in her new power wheelchair. After a few moments watching her maneuver the therapist turned to me and said, "I sure wish people knew we need their old equipment. It makes me sad to know that perfectly good equipment is sitting around in backyards, rusting, when we could be putting it to good use".

Frankly, I was shocked! We've always made a point of donating our daughter's outgrown equipment, still in good condition, to a pediatric organization that will refurbish and distribute it to another child who needs the equipment but can't afford it. Apparently we are in the minority. We don't have the room to warehouse old equipment so we found someone who could use it and were able to use it as a tax deduction. Make sense? You bet!

What to Donate?

There are many foundations and organizations that are more than happy to receive used medical equipment. Items must be in good condition or need minimal repair or maintenance. Many have waiting lists of individuals waiting for specific types of equipment. Wheelchairs, both powered and manual, are high priority items with varied communication devices, walkers, standers, corner chairs, scooters, hospital beds, mats and other equipment high on the list.

Where to Donate

Before you dash out to drop off your equipment do your homework. Make a few phone calls and find out which groups in your community need or will take the equipment you have to donate. Each organization can tell you what they need or accept and many will have a “wish list” of items they would love to receive. Be sure to ask.

- School District Foundations
- Special Education Departments in your local schools
- Your local Children’s Hospital Foundation
- Shriner’s Children Hospitals. They particularly need good wheelchairs, walkers and crutches.
- Local charities such as Easter Seals, United Way, ARC, etc.
- Independent Living Centers are always looking for equipment to add to their loan banks.
- Out Patient Therapy Clinics
- International Charities also appreciate donations of good, used equipment. These items are refurbished and sent overseas to countries unable to acquire the same equipment we can.
- Military units will often take refurbished medical equipment provided by international charitable groups on overseas humanitarian missions.
- Your State Department of Human Services
- Assistive Technology Departments at State Universities will take donated equipment to use for spare parts. If your equipment is in less than good condition, contact your local Assistive Technology Program.

If you are unsure about where to find a donation program in your area start with your child’s therapist, Special Education teacher or doctor’s office. Check SNRP’s state Resource Links for assistive technology programs, local charities and independent living centers in your state. Look in your Yellow Pages under “Charities” for smaller organizations in your community.



Tax Deduction

When donating equipment to any organization be sure to ask for a receipt. Your donation may be tax deductible, ask your tax preparer, and the receipt will be needed for your tax records.

Donate It!

Don’t let your older, outgrown, medical equipment gather dust. Donate it! Put it to good use by sending it to an organization that can refurbish it and send it on to another child in need.

