

In 2001, Mack Staley of Tiburon was in line at the dump and saw a perfectly good wheelchair in the truck in front of him. That observation spawned the idea for Home Cares Equipment Recyclers and with help from Marilyn McConnell, a reuse service was started in San Rafael. Surplus medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, toilet risers, and canes are collected and given away to people in need.

Every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Staley and McConnell open their warehouse located at 1300 Kerner Blvd. Some items come in and go out the same day. Last year, Home Cares received 1,953 items from 281 donors and gave out 2,015 items to 393 recipients. For information, call 415 388-8198.

Additional medical surplus companies can be found listed on to the Alameda County web site www.stopwaste.org. All of these organizations are run by volunteers, so be patient for a reply.

Locally, you can check out thrift shops to see if they will accept or sell medical equipment.

You can also join a local Freecycle group (www.freecycle.org) to give away or request medical equipment. You can list items on local exchange sites such as www.Napamax.org, CALMax.org or Craig's list. Contact me if you find more sources and I will add them to www.recycle-guide.com.

SHOE SWAPPING AND RECYCLING.

Do you know someone who only needs one shoe or has two feet that are different sizes? There are two nonprofit groups that can help out.

One Shoe Crew (916 685-8746) is based in Elk Grove, California. They require a \$3 Lifetime Registration and charge a nominal postage fee for each shoe shipped.

The National Odd Shoe Exchange (www.oddshoe.org) is based in Chandler Arizona. Founded in St. Louis in 1943 as a support for polio survivors, it expanded to help WWII veterans who needed the service and continues to thrive today. These nonprofits depend on donations of shoes, money and services.

The Global Center for Success on Mare Island is collecting a "mountain of shoes." Drop off your slightly worn shoes by June 28 at 1055 Azuar Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday. Shoes will be given to homeless clients for work or job interviews. For

information, call 707 562-5673.

STAYCATION?

What are you doing this summer? Most are staying closer to home because of high fuel prices. The news media is calling this "Staycation." Email me (asortedaffair@valcorerecycling.org) with your green staycation strategies and I'll add them to a future column.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING

On the third Saturday of each month, Vallejoans can bring personal documents and old tax forms to VALCORE Recycling for free shredding. Paper will be accepted from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at their site located at 38 Sheridan Street in south Vallejo. The service is open to all residents and businesses and is sponsored by the City of Vallejo and CINTAS paper shredders. For more information call 707 645-8258. Over 3 tons of paper were shredded at the May event, and this pilot program will continue through September.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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