

Thinking of Spring?

I write one of these articles every year. As we start thinking about spring, we also start thinking about the things in our garage, our basement, and various places around our homes. Perhaps you have an old unused bike sitting there. Maybe there is that exercycle that you used regularly for awhile but haven't used for over a year. Instead of putting this stuff in the garbage, here are some suggestions to help you recycle this stuff!

Donate your adult bicycle (in good repair) to the Northwest DuPage Walk-In Ministry. This organization is classified a 501c3, so all donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. A donation letter will be given to anyone wishing to donate. Simply contact the Site Coordinator at 630-375-7185. They'll get the bicycle to a needy person.

The Catholic Charities office in DuPage operates a shelter in Villa Park by the name of the DuPage Emergency Shelter. It is a 24-hour year round program which serves individuals (men and women) and families who are situationally homeless, often due to job loss, divorce or depleted savings. During the stay at the shelter, Catholic Charities case managers work with the individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency and independence. The shelter offers a safe place to stay while residents work toward securing employment. . A minimum of six job contacts per day are made in order to attain employment within the first week. The clients rely on BICYCLES to search for employment and to go to their appointments within the community. If you are aware of anyone in the community who would be able to donate a working bicycle for the adult clients, direct them to the shelter supervisor at 630-941-8681 with any questions and to discuss a potential donation.

Another place to donate your adult bike in good condition is to the Serenity House, 891 South Rt. 53 in Addison, Illinois. Director David Tews Will place the bike appropriately. Serenity House can be reached at 630-620-6616 x104.

If your bike is a "Less than perfect Bike", and if you are thinking your old bike belongs in the landfill, please think again. There is an organization located in Chicago called The Working Bikes Cooperative. This organization sees discarded and/or donated bikes as tools that can significantly improve the lives and opportunities of people in less developed countries. The Cooperative is working toward providing second lives for many bikes in places where they will provide people in rural villages with transportation to and from work, with a way to get products to market, to connect with neighboring villages and as a means of improving health, recreating and socializing. Some of the bikes will stay in Chicago where people who need an inexpensive working bike can usually pick one up for \$35 to \$65. Information on the Working Bikes Cooperative is available at www.workingbikes.org or 312-421-5048.

Additionally, there is a wonderful organization nearby, in Wheaton, called His Wheels International. HWI is 501 C-3 tax exempt not-for-profit cycling organization. Their mission is to provide pedal-powered transportation, with dignity, through global partnerships, as a tool for expanding Christ's Kingdom More complete information is

available at www.hiswheels.org. To make arrangements to donate to this fine organization, call their Executive Director, Alice Teisan at 630-510-1005.

And finally, what to do with that exercycle that isn't being used anymore. Here is an organization that is looking for USED EXERCYCLES! Krejci Academy, 619 E. Franklin Ave., Naperville, IL 60540, phone 630-355-6870. Krejci Academy is an alternative school for children and adolescents, ages 3 to 21, who have developmental and social/emotional disabilities including Autism, PDD and Asperger's Syndrome. For additional information contact Christian Taylor at 630-9686