



Faith-Based Groups Organizing a Medical Recycling Program

Supplies Over Seas (SOS) would love to partner with your faith-based group and organize a medical supplies recycling program. The medical supplies your organization collects will be used to save lives worldwide.

Supplies Over Seas is a Louisville-based nonprofit medical surplus recovery organization. SOS partners with hospitals, medical institutions, doctors' offices, faith-based groups and individuals to recover surplus medical supplies and equipment and redistribute them to communities in need globally. These supplies are made available for short term mission trips where doctors, nurses and others hand carry items in their suitcases. SOS also supports hospitals and clinics in medically depressed areas world-wide by sending large amounts of supplies and equipment in pallets and 40-foot ocean going containers. Since 1993, SOS has sent lifesaving supplies to over 100 countries.

Many faith-based organizations conduct collection programs for homeless shelters, food pantrys, etc. A collection program for medical recycling works in the same manner. Here is some information on how to organize your medical recycling program.

Program Chair - Choose one person to champion the collection program. Their name may/may not be listed on the collection program flyer and in the bulletin. You may choose to list the program chair or direct all inquiries to Supplies Over Seas.

Timing - Collection programs are usually successful if they have a short beginning and ending period. A goal might be to collect during one month. If the program is successful, you might consider hosting a program in the spring and in the fall.

Collection Bins - SOS has large cardboard boxes with SOS labels that can be used for collection bins. You are welcome to use whatever collection space, tub or box that you feel is appropriate for your organization.

Flyers - Once you decide all the details of your collection program, SOS will prepare a flyer that is specific to your project.

Speaker - SOS would love to address your church committee or make an announcement from the pulpit. We could bring a doctor or nurse who uses the supplies on medical mission trips.

The program chair may also want to make an announcement during services. Let us know if this is something you want to organize for your collection program.

Notice in Church bulletin or newspaper

Announce your collection program in your church bulletin or newspaper. Here is some draft language that you can edit to fit your program:

“Do you have surplus medical supplies that you would like to recycle? These items could include: crutches; walkers; canes; wheel chairs; potty chairs; orthopedic supplies; Depends; dressings; syringes; diabetic supplies; ostomy supplies; BiPAP, CPAP, scales, etc. Our church (or insert church committee, mosque, synagogue, etc.) is partnering with Supplies Over Seas (SOS), a Louisville-based nonprofit to collect surplus medical supplies. Supplies Over Seas will repurpose these supplies for medically impoverished communities around the globe. Unable to accept liquids (IV fluids or nutrition) and prescription medications. Over the counter medications like aspirin, antibiotic ointment, burn ointment are needed. Look for the SOS Recycling Box across from Kitchen (or give direction to the location of SOS collection box). If you have questions on what can be put in the recycle box (or beside the box), call Sally Sue Smith (502) 893-3333.”

Jump Start your Collection Program. Volunteer at SOS! – A great way to jump-start your collection program is to organize a group from your church to volunteer at SOS. Volunteer opportunities for groups of 10 or more can be organized around your schedule. This 3-hour community service will give everyone a sense of the enormous mission they are supporting.

Photo promotion of the Collection Program - A picture does tell a thousand stories! You can stage a photograph of a church member putting a pair of crutches into the collection bin. This visual might motivate church member to participate.

Collection Completed – Deliver Supplies - Once your collection program is completed, you can bring your donations to the SOS warehouse at 1500 Arlington Avenue (off of Spring Street). If your collection program was successful and you need assistance in getting the donations to SOS, we can arrange for the SOS truck to pick up your donations.

Data - SOS will weigh all the donations and let you know the total poundage of medical supplies your collection program generated.

Photo - SOS would also like to take a photo of you or your group with the donated medical supplies. Your success will inspire other church groups to participate.

Questions about Starting a Medical Recycling Program at your church

Call: 502-736-6360

Email: Admin@SuppliesOverSeas.org

Delivering a **World of Health and Hope.**