

PRESS RELEASE

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Town of Egremont and Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires Announce New Partnership

The Town of Egremont and Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires, Inc. have joined together to create a used-material donation site located at the Egremont Town Hall parking lot on Route 71. The kick-off of this new service will begin on Saturday April 21st and will coincide with the Egremont Green Committee's highly successful Earth Day recycling and roadside clean-up event. Goodwill Industries will then continue their used-material donation site presence every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at that location from 10am to 2pm. The donation site will be open to all, not just Egremont residents, and the Goodwill attendant will provide those making material donations with a slip for their taxes.

Goodwill Industries collects a wide array of materials people no longer have use for and either through their retail stores or the recycling market funds their many community programs. In addition to the social benefits this service has environmental benefits as well: materials that are being reused or resold are not going to a landfill. This translates into energy reductions on the manufacturing end and savings for municipalities that don't have to haul or dispose of these materials.

The list of accepted items include: used clothing, accessories, house wares, computers, computer monitors, keyboards, computer mice, small household appliances, furniture and lamps. Goodwill Industries guarantees clothing in good condition will go to people in need or will be resold in their retail stores. Clothing and other textiles beyond their lifespan will be sold to companies who recycle the fibers for rags and other products.

"Our partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires is really a triple win situation," says Juliette Haas of the Egremont Board of Health and Green Committee, "when you donate an unused sweater or winter coat someone in need will be getting it or the sale of that item will go towards worthy community programs. When you donate you're old computer monitor you won't have to pay the normal fee at the transfer station. So you're saving real money and the town benefits from reduction in their amount of trash. I'm happy with the environmental benefits too."

Frank Engels of Goodwill Industries agrees, "Partnerships with local towns such as the Town of Egremont and its Green Committee are key to the success of our mission here in Berkshire County...these [partnerships] provide us the opportunity to reintroduce our community to the workplace through education, mentoring and real life experiences."

Anyone with questions can call Juliette Haas at (413) 528-0182 x 22.