



IRN

THE RECYCLING NETWORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRN SHIPS SIX MILLION POUNDS OF SURPLUS FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN 2008

Concord, NH (February 20, 2008) – The Institution Recycling Network (IRN) and its partner organizations shipped more than six million pounds of surplus furnishings for U.S. and worldwide disaster relief and economic development in 2008.

Every year, American companies, schools, and hospitals throw away millions of pieces of usable furniture and equipment. Tables, chairs, file cabinets, dormitory beds, hospital beds, office and classroom desks, x-ray equipment, incubators, bureaus, bookshelves, lounge furniture, kitchen equipment – the list is endless. Many try to donate locally, but there's a limit to how much local charities can handle. Most surplus is just hauled to the landfill.

IRN provides a link into a network of charities that use American surplus for relief and development projects in the U.S. and overseas. Around the world, the need for usable furniture and equipment is almost infinite: for hurricane and earthquake relief; for schools and orphanages; for communities ravaged by floods; for clinics and hospitals; for regions recovering from civil war; for homes, apartments, and schools in U.S. cities. IRN's mission is to match surplus from American generators with the organizations that need it most, then handle the details to make the transfer happen.

In 2008 IRN completed surplus property projects for over 100 different organizations in fifteen states. Most were in New England, but projects came from as far away as Texas and California. Projects ranged from just a few desks and chairs picked up in a box truck to major cleanouts for the University of Massachusetts, Yale University and others that filled twenty or more shipping containers. The surplus was sent to ten U.S. states and more than a dozen countries around the world.

Comprehensive recycling solutions

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“Surplus is an issue for almost all organizations,” says Mark Berry, IRN’s Surplus Program Manager. “It’s bulky, it’s expensive to get rid of, it doesn’t even fit in the dumpster. But worst of all, companies know it can be reused, if they can only find a user.”

“And there’s no shortage of needy users, in the U.S., in the Caribbean and Central America, around the world. IRN provides the link.”

About IRN

IRN is a cooperative organization that works with over 200 colleges and universities, hospitals, private firms, public and private schools and state agencies to improve recycling performance and economics. IRN manages transportation, processing, and marketing of recycled commodities using the collective strength of its members and clients, and provides a single point of contact to recycle dozens of different materials – everything from cardboard and fluorescent lamps to concrete and Astroturf. IRN is known for its effective recycling of unusual or complex commodities such as electronic equipment, construction and demolition wastes, and surplus property.

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