

NONPROFIT JOURNAL

& MOORE

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In-Kind Donations: Where To Find Them

Most nonprofit organizations are flooded with donations of similar items: clothing, books, household goods and food. But some groups or individuals who rely on your organization for support may need items that are rarely donated – furniture, medical supplies, and exercise equipment.

Or your organization may take on a project that needs larger, rarely donated, items. Where do you go to find these items?

Medical facilities are constantly updating toward the “latest and greatest” equipment. In fact, hospitals upgrade equipment fairly regularly, and dispose of functional equipment. You may also consider checking with hospices and nursing homes in your area, as well as individual practitioners, to find medical supplies and equipment. One, often overlooked, facility are funeral homes that may have medical items as well as furniture available.

Educational facilities, both public and private, may donate books once the new edition is released. This option can help, in particular, if you are looking for reference material. Books are

also donated once they are held for a predetermined amount of time. This time frame differs between institutions as well as the time of year when the texts are reviewed and donated.

Local and state governments can offer state-owned equipment that has been surplus. Municipalities are authorized to donate ambulances, fire trucks and other vehicles once newer models have been purchased.

You might also consider scouring the local community on a Saturday morning, when neighborhoods offer a multitude of garage sales.

Publish your wish list in the organization’s newsletter and annual report. Also, consider placing advertisements in trade, professional or industry-specific periodicals. By placing a

small advertisement, you have the potential to reach hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have access to the items your clients need. Don’t forget about the Internet. Online sales sites, such as EBay, provide users with a limitless marketplace.

Ingenuity is key when getting what your clients need. The more ingenious the channel,

the less likely someone has thought of using it. Plus, even if other organizations and individuals do not immediately have the materials you need they may be able to keep you in mind when they are doing some spring cleaning.



Accounting & Reporting of Contributions

Contributions are recognized at fair value when they are received. It is not usually difficult to measure contributions of monetary assets. For example, a cash contribution is measured at the amount of the check the organization receives or the total dollars placed in the offering plate at church. Typically, the difficulty in measuring contributions is in placing a value on non-cash contributions.

Gifts in-kind that can be used or sold should be measured at fair value, with fair value as “the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.” Fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement.



There are reporting requirements and standards for the nonprofit organization receiving and selling the non-cash donations, which depend heavily on the amount of discretion that the nonprofit has over the use or disposition of the asset (i.e., what kind and how many strings are attached to the gift). There are also tax implications for the donors, particularly in the amount of the deduction that can be taken for the gift.



*Blessings, they abound,
Everywhere you turn.*

*As we approach the end of the year,
We are reminded of the many things
That we are thankful for.*

*Thanks for all that you do to
Make our communities a
Stronger & better place!*

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Your Success Is Our Business



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