

One Stop Donation Drop

How to Create OSDD in Your Community



The One Stop Donation Drop encourages communities to rally together and give gently-used items a second life. The process is simple, and anyone can participate. Here's the idea:

Partner with multiple charitable organizations that collect everything from eyeglasses to clothes to medical supplies to cribs to bicycles. Next, invite community members to clean out their homes and pack up everything they no longer want.

Then, unite everyone involved. All at one location, community members get to drop off their unwanted (but usable) items, and charities help those items reach wanting hands. This assists neighbors in need while reducing landfill waste.

So, that's the idea: people helping people. It's that easy. And you can be a part of it! Start a Donation Drop in your community today.

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Starting a One Stop Donation Drop is as Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Preparation



1. Gather a few volunteers to coordinate the efforts.
2. Choose a date (spring cleaning and back to school are great) and location, possibly outdoors with an indoor alternative for rain. Give your event enough time (and daylight!), consider 10am – 2pm.
3. Contact area nonprofit organizations. Ask them to provide you with a wish list of gently-used items they would like to receive. Ask for a representative to be present on collection day and have tax deduction forms on hand.
4. Search the internet for other nonprofits that collect odd items (i.e. Digital Cameras: Classroom Connection; Medical Items: Docs to Docks; worn sneakers: NIKE).
5. Work with the nonprofits to coordinate transportation of the items to their locations. If they don't have their own transportation, local businesses might volunteer their trucks and staff that day to help. Raise funds to defray other shipping costs.
6. Get the word out. Use local newspapers, radio and TV, church bulletins, social networking and advertising to promote the event. Provide the wish lists by category on a webpage as well as on printed flyers.
7. Enlist the help of your local high school and college students. They can “adopt” a nonprofit and be the liaison throughout the process, fundraise for shipping costs, get the word out in their schools, and volunteer the day of the event.
8. Consider benefits for your donors such as hosting/providing: free document shredding, a bake sale, free trees for participants to plant at their homes, a blood drive, or anything else in which you think your community members might be interested.
9. Solicit area businesses to feed volunteers, help with transportation, offer discounts to donors, or provide monetary donations to defray any shipping costs.
10. Event t-shirts for volunteers/staff help donors easily see who they can go to for help (and free tees are always a hit with volunteers!); use the OSDD logo and give your sponsors promotion space on the back of the shirts.

2. Event Day

1. Set up stations to sort the items by category (i.e. kids' clothing- summer/ winter), books, toys, household items, baby items, etc. Simply use large tarps on the ground with numbered, labeled sign posts to indicate the section. Keep in mind that tables can be helpful for sorting clothing.
2. Have plenty of boxes and garbage bags available, along with markers and paper to label what is in the containers.
3. Some volunteers can greet the donors and escort them to the sorting area (set up a greeting tent/table that will be easily identifiable to donors when they arrive. The table can contain information about the event and the charities, staffed by volunteers who will provide instructions and answer questions). Other volunteers can sort the items and prepare them for nonprofits. Items that don't match the requirements of any wish lists can be set aside.
4. After the donors are finished, they will be eligible to partake in the added benefits you've set up (i.e. receive a free Arbor Day tree, coupons from area businesses, make a purchase at the bake sale, etc.)
5. Once your event has ended, the nonprofits can transport their collected items.

3. Other Tips:

1. Consider a time after your event – such as “FREE at 3! (o'clock)” – when community members can take any items that did not meet the nonprofits' requirements. Or, ask your local salvage or 1-800-GOT-JUNK to participate and take away unusable items.
2. Contact your local FREecycle chapter, as they may be interested in taking the remaining items as well.
3. Contact the other service organizations in your community such as the Jay-Cees, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rotary, etc., to spread the word and volunteer the day of the event.
4. Think outside the box: this event is all that you make it! Have fun while you think of the all the good you will be doing for your community and the earth. With all your success, you'll probably want to start planning again for next year...

**1...2...3... GO!
(and good luck)**