

# Redemptive Recycling

## ***A Guide From The Word At Work For Our Ministry Associates***

*...the spoil of the poor is in your houses.*

Is. 3:14

### **So, you've been bitten by the bug...**

If you've received this booklet, it probably means that you are already helping TWAW gather supplies for Belize out of the excess our communities create. This document is intended to help you in that venture, to get you even more excited about mining the gold that can be found in our wasteful society, and to give you the tools, knowledge and resources you need to be effective. Thank you for being willing to let God use you in this way. We hope this ministry becomes a path for you into the "Missional Life-style." And we hope that you are able to touch many lives in Belize in the name of Christ.

*"...Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...."*

### **Your mission, should you choose to accept it...**

TWAW is looking for volunteers to find and gather all the good stuff that our friends in Belize need, to sort and package the items, to load shipping containers headed to Belize, and to fundraise for shipping so that we can send more. You might do this on a small scale using your sedan for a truck and your living room for a warehouse. Or you might be able to do it on a larger scale. We want to help you use your skills, your sphere of influence, and your resources as effectively as possible.

### **But why do we do this?**

Redemptive recycling combines our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation with His command to care for those living in great need. The Bible is clear that as believers in Jesus Christ, we are mandated to care for the least of these – the poor, infirm, imprisoned, orphaned and widowed. TWAW Ministry Associates keep usable resources out of our landfills, and redeem them for use by our partners in Belize. Over time, this kind of service acts as a platform for the preaching of the Gospel. Trust develops with our Belizean partners and doors of opportunity open.

*A 40ft sea container loaded with donations can be shipped for around \$8,000 USD  
– the average value of items reaching our friends in Belize is \$80,000 USD!*

# We can't ship for free!

## Raising the money

Shipping a 40-foot sea container to Belize can cost \$6,000 and \$8,000USD depending on the contents and amount of duty we are assessed for importing goods. That same container's contents may be worth well over a million dollars! If we all do our part to help raise funds, TWAW will be able to ship more and more. Here are some ideas:

Would your church consider funding one container a year?

Is your Sunday School class supportive of mission outreach and concerned about wasted resources in the US?

Perhaps your VBS program includes a Mission unit and would consider collecting funds.

Sometimes, we can find shipping donors by highlighting a particular valuable item that could be shipped. If you've found a load of 200 computers, send out a letter asking for shipping money to be able to send those computers.

*Consider personally raising the funds to ship the items you have gathered. This could help the ministry greatly!*

## How to decide what to go after:

You will soon find, if you haven't already, that you can get a huge amount of stuff with very little effort. The amount of waste can be overwhelming. We need to be selective about what we take in order to get the most out of the effort and money that goes into this. Understanding the cost of shipping can help us make good decisions.

## Counting the Cost:

It's helpful to consider how much energy and time goes in to each box we send to Belize when weighing whether a donation's value is great enough for the expense required to send it.

Let's follow a box of books donated to one of our Ministry Associates from a friend having a garage sale. The Ministry Associate donates her time to get the books. She then sends them with a friend driving through Amarillo to get to our warehouse; the friend donates her time meeting with Tim Hagen to deliver the books. Tim spends his time labeling, repackaging, and loading the books onto a pallet with other items. This pallet of items (48" by 44" by 8ft tall) costs around \$400 to ship to Belize. So, the cost of shipping this small box on the sea container is \$9-\$10, with customs fees. Once the box arrives in Belize, our Project Manager, Kenny Logan, spends his time unloading the container and arranging for its delivery. That's quite a bit of investment in that one box of books. ***If the box in question isn't worth at least \$20, we may not be using our resources wisely to get it to Belize.***

In general, we try to send items that are "no brainers". Resources that are so valuable that our investment in shipping them seems small in comparison.

## Where to look:

Start by thinking about your sphere of influence. Who do you bump into every day? Where do you work? Who goes to your church? You may find that God hands you opportunities on a plate. If you are not overwhelmed by what you find initially, here are a few other places to look: 1) New school buildings being built in your area. School districts often throw away huge amounts of stuff when a new school is built. 2) Businesses closing their doors or moving locations often have excess stock that needs to disappear. 3) Banks, Businesses, or Government Agencies that are upgrading computer networks. If needed, TAW can securely wipe hard drives. 4) Hospitals—try asking for surgical supplies that get thrown away, blankets or pillows. 5) Doctor's offices that are closing down. Keep your eyes peeled! One of Board Members loves to say, "They can't say yes if you don't ask!!"

## No Junk for Jesus!

Please try to only collect things in good shape. Take a rain check on school desks that are missing parts. Computers need to function well and not be too old (look for PCs that shipped with Windows 7). Clothes need to be clean and organized. Spend your time looking for only the best stuff. No Junk for Jesus!

## A General Wish-list:

### School Supplies

We should look for new crayons, markers, pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, 3-ring binders, lined paper, composition notebooks, copy paper, tape, glue, backpacks, scissors, etc. Also, TV's with built in DVD players are very helpful. Used Computers with monitors, keyboards and mice can be sent if they are not too old (at least CoreDuo Processor with at least 2 GB of RAM). Secondly, gently used above items--nice enough that kids you know would not mind using them—can be useful.

### Medical Supplies

We can use gently used wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and bath-assist items. Brand new, in the box hospital supplies—catheters, sterile gloves, dialysis fluid, boxes of syringes, etc. Hospice supplies can be very helpful: adult diapers, nutritional shakes, etc. *It is very rare that we can take ANY PHARMACEUTICALS, even brand new ones. Please check with us before collecting drugs.*

### Books

We get very excited about brand new or very gently used board books or read-along books designed to help children learn to read. We have many partners

### My Belizean Friends would love to have that!!!

*Sometimes we are tempted to judge what's worth sending and what's not by thinking about what our friends in Belize would want. I've heard it often said, "Why don't you want to send that? I know Belizeans who could use that." But this approach fails to take the cost of shipping into account. Our friends who have very little might say "yes" to almost anything, but that does not mean that it is a wise use of our resources to send it. Instead, try to think about what our Belizean friends would do with the \$10 we will spend to ship the books. If our Belizean friend had \$10, would they buy the same box of books? Or would they use it on something more valuable?*

clamoring for them. Reading textbooks are like gold—especially if they come in sets big enough for a whole classroom. Less desirable would be books for older kids (12-17). *Please don't collect adult-level books, paperbacks (except for children), or any heavily used books. Encyclopedias can only be used if they are 2008 or newer.*

## **Baby/ Kids Items**

Cribs, Pack 'n Plays, Slings, Blankets, and diapers are all in high demand. Please look for brand new toys, pacifiers, bottles, etc. For older kids, brand new socks and underwear. Shoes for kids are always needed—especially all-black shoes for school. Converse high-tops and low-tops last a good long time in Belize. We could use them in the hundreds! We can sometimes use gently used clothing and toys. But these are less desirable. *We should not collect baby carseats, battery-operated toys, or cloth diapers.*

## **Household Items**

Our partners can use brand-new appliances like: gas stoves, gas ovens, refrigerators, microwaves, blenders, food-processors, pots, pans, knives, etc. We can use dishes, silverware, sheets, blankets, pillows, furniture, and mattresses.

Used versions of the above list can be good as well. Use your best judgment. An oven/stove combo will take up around \$150 worth of space on a shipping container. So, if it's in good enough shape to be worth that, bring it on! We can also use bicycles in good condition.

*Let's stay away from VCRS, VHS Tapes, Old TV's, old mattresses, electric stoves, exercise equipment, old electronics (fax machines, rotary phones, old copiers, tape players, 8 track players, and laser disc—as cool as all that old tech is), and antiques.*

## **Sports Equipment**

Belizeans play a lot of sports. Sports equipment can be useful for ministry. Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball, Track and Field, and Cricket are popular. Uniforms can be useful. Also, general fitness equipment like jump ropes, orange cones, and dodge balls are great. Use your best judgement about the condition of the equipment. *Please notice that American Football is not on the above list!*

## **Women's Items**

TWAW supports several organizations that work with women who need help. We can use toilet items (individual sizes better): , soap, toilet paper, deodorant, hygiene items, etc. Please collect brand-new toiletry items only. Secondarily, we can use very gently used clothing for women.

## **Christmas Project**

Every year at Christmas time, TWAW volunteers head to Belize to help with various Christmas projects and parties that our partners put on. We always need supplies. You can look for small toys and other gift-like items that can help make these parties fun for kids. Picture a party with 50 children and imagine the type of items that could be given out. 50 packs of crayons. 50 hot-wheels cars. 100 beanie-babies. Dolls, balls, backpacks, etc. Brand-new gifts would be best, but sometimes we can use very gently used items.

## How to collect and organize:

TWAW is a small organization with a small staff. We can sort and package your donations for you, but you can be a big help to the ministry if you sort and package them for us. When you involve your church and friends in the process, you raise awareness for TWAW and provide opportunities for people to work out their faith. Here's how!

### How to package your donations:

Use good common sense when boxing up your donations. Keep like things with like things. Fill up the entire box so other boxes can be stacked on top. Don't make your boxes too heavy to lift. And label your boxes properly. We'll discuss more of this below!

#### In Boxes:

The best way to box up your donations is to find a whole lot of the same sized box. In our warehouse in Amarillo, we use a lot of Chick-Fil-A french-fry boxes that I get for free from the owner. But you can find boxes in lots of places—liquor stores, schools, etc. Look for boxes that are all the same size so that they will be easily stacked on a pallet. Also, try to find a box that will be a good size for what you want to put in it. Books are heavy and need smaller boxes. Stuffed animals can go in bigger boxes. Keep the weight of your boxes under 40lbs. Try to fill each box to the top so that it will not collapse when other boxes are stacked on it. Each box needs to be labeled with 3 things:

- 1) ***What's in it.***
- 2) ***Who it's for.***
- 3) ***Does it belong with other boxes?***

#### The Color Scheme:

In the chaos of unloading a container in Belize it's great to have boxes color-coded to help Kenny and his volunteers. We are now using spray paint to do this. It's cheap and easy to use. Just spray a dot the size of a tennis ball on several sides of the box. Do this in addition to the labeling described to the left. Use the following color scheme:

- White = No Organization Designated
- Blue = Medical (General)
- Red = Hospice (Dr. Thompson)
- Black = Orphanages
- Orange = Christian Sewing Partners of Belize
- Yellow = Belize Central Prison (Kolbe Foundation)
- Brown = School Supplies (Designated or Not)
- Green = Designated for some other organization

For example: *"22 Children's Books—Valley of Peace—1 of 7"* Or: *"Misc. Surgical Supplies—KMH—2 of 15"* If you don't have a particular ministry in mind, don't put a recipient on the box. Just label it: *"22 Children's Books."* Boxing your donations will save us a lot of time!

#### On Pallets:

Eventually, most items get palletized for shipment to Belize. If you have the space to palletize your stuff, use pallets that can be picked up by a pallet jack from any direction. These kinds of pallets are called "block pallets" instead of the more common "stringer pallets." Also, use pallets sized 48 inches by 44 inches (or close enough to that). This is a common size. Using these particular pallets makes it possible for us to load them either on sea containers or on over-land trucks. Stack items on these pallets within the footprint of the pallet up to 8 feet tall. *Make sure that the pallet will still fit through whatever kind of door you have in your warehouse!* Then, wrap the entire pallet tightly with shrink-wrap. Of course, you can only do all this if you have a warehouse and a pallet jack. But even if you don't have all this, you can still help us by boxing your stuff.

***Please keep the weight of your boxes under 40lbs. Our backs will thank you in 10 years!***

### **Mailing your donations:**

**If you want to mail donations to us, you can send them to one of two addresses:**

**1) If you're sending small boxes through USPS, UPS, FedEx, or a similar service, you can ship to our office:**

**TWAW  
1400 Wolflin Ave.  
Amarillo, TX 79109**

**2) If you're sending palletized loads through a freight forwarder, please send to our warehouse:**

**TWAW  
C/O Western Builders  
901 S. Johnson St.  
Amarillo, TX 79101**

***Please insist that the shipping company call Tim Hagen to set up a delivery time at***

### **Where to send them:**

We send shipping containers from all over the country. If you have enough donations to fill a 40ft shipping container, we can ship right from your living room! But if not, we have to figure out the best place for you to send your donations. In general, the best way to determine this would be to email Tim Hagen ([timhagen@twaw.org](mailto:timhagen@twaw.org)) who has his ear to the ground about where the next container will be. If you're close to Amarillo, you can bring donations to our warehouse. We can't promise when they will ship, but we will get them to Belize eventually. You can also mail donations to us in Amarillo.

### **Your Ideas Please!**

All of this is a work in progress. If you have ideas on how to make this all work more smoothly, please let us know! ([timhagen@twaw.org](mailto:timhagen@twaw.org)). We know this seems like a lot to do, but each step you can do for us saves TWA time. (which equals money!) Thanks for doing your part.

## **Our Ministry Associates in Action:**

### **Marilyn the Flip Flop Missionary**

God's first prompting for Marilyn Stewart came through her niece, a pastor who had participated on a TWA vision trip to Belize. The niece came home speechless and amazed and reported she had never seen a ministry like TWA before; she encouraged her aunt to get in touch with Executive Director Tim Tam. At a point of great frustration with her own denomination because it was big on promoting "religion" and at the same time neglecting the needs of the poor, and after a profound encounter with the Holy Spirit, Marilyn began putting feet to her faith. She got those feet wet by engaging in true religion with the poor in Mexico. But the prompting of her niece was followed by a chain of circumstances and encounters all pointing her to Belize.

Once she got her feet in Belize the doors for ministry began to fly open and they still do. As she travels in Belize, God brings to her people in great need. And when she returns to the states God pours his resources upon her to meet those needs.

Her two-car garage has no room for cars. It is a warehouse for sorting and packaging items for Belize. And when the donations come in too fast, the rest of her home can also get buried in baby clothes and shoes, sewing machines and fabric, and thousands of pairs of flip flops...for which the Belizeans have nick named her "The flip flop lady".

To support Christian Sewing Partners of Belize, Marilyn bought out a fabric store that was closing for pennies on the dollar. To ship bolts of decorator fabric she enlisted the aid of a mortician friend who donated cardboard coffins used in cremation, which were the perfect size. In an inspiring display of the reality of Ephesians 2:10, Marilyn discovered another friend was about to retire and was then planning to refurbish the 250 sewing machines he had gathered in his garage to give to "some worthy





missionary endeavor”.

Marilyn has mastered the art of reaping the fruit from various dollar-type stores. When things go down to a penny, or even free, their managers call her now!

Collecting needful items on our list for several months, Marilyn has enlisted a shipping company in Kansas that stores the items for her on pallets in their warehouse and then brings them to Amarillo when they are making a trip! Once shipped to Belize, Marilyn spends weeks or even months in Belize distributing items to those in need.

In her former life, Marilyn was a banker. Now, in her retirement, she is one of the happiest people

you will ever meet. Her gratitude for being involved in this aspect of TAWW's ministry overflows ... it's humbling to see how a person's life is transformed when they are encouraged to use their influence, resources, and connections for Kingdom purposes.

## God Wants Your \$1.96!

Kevin and Donna Weekly initially came to Belize from Roswell New Mexico on a “Story Cloth” trip to train teachers in how to teach the Bible. But that was a divinely orchestrated set up. Once God had lured them to Belize his bigger plans for them unfolded. Relationships with Belizeans developed. They helped bring solar power to a remote school and village. Kevin began doing police training and both Kevin and Donna began working with the families of police officers. In their trips to Belize their knowledge of the poor and needy began to grow, and in their time back home in New Mexico doors flew open and God supplied ways to respond to those needs. Our TAWW news letters have feature the amazing stories on how God's timing and direction led them to incredible donations in school supplies, baby clothes, and most recently computers and furniture from a school closing in Roswell. To keep up with the flow of what God is doing in their area they have recruited other volunteers to help with the acquisition of donations. Donna's brother has given us thousands of feet of warehouse space so we can gather – store – and ship containers from New Mexico. Listen to this story about an opportunity God provided for them:

“Today after I picked my wife up from work, she asked if I minded stopping by a store. I really didn't want to go but because she asked and I knew we would be looking for items for Belize I drove to the store. We picked out a couple of items and I went to check the price. The clerk

## Share Your Stories!

*We want more! This ministry is too good of an idea to keep it to ourselves. You can help inspire others to follow your example by sharing your testimony about what God is doing through you! You can get more donors giving to shipping! You can help us spread the word.*

### **Share your stories!**

*When you find a particularly good or interesting load of ministry supplies, send us a picture with a paragraph telling the story of how God made it happen. We'll post stories on Facebook, our website, and send them out in emails.*

told me they were \$1 each without scanning them. My wife and I picked out some more items. I took a few of those for a price check also. This time the clerk scanned the items and they rang up for a penny. We went back over all the racks, found the items that were only a penny, and loaded our cart. Due to God's prompting and amazing grace we were able to purchase 183 brand new shirts, pants, and shoes for a whopping \$1.96!" —Kevin Weekly

## Being a Part of God's Provision for Orphans:

Perhaps you heard about the "Ashley Furniture Container?" James and Traci Kral from Rockport, TX came on a trip to Belize as volunteers from TAW were working toward the completion of the King's Children's Home. On the trip they fell in love with Leonie (Founder of the Home) and the kids. By putting his plumbing skills and resources to the effort, James became a major help in the completion of that project. As the Christmas deadline grew close, Traci noted the huge need for furnishing of the home. She was encouraged by a friend to approach the local owner of Ashley Furniture who happened to attend her church about donating some furniture to the King's Children's Home. When

she did talk to the owner, her appeal appeared to fall flat, but God was working. Over the next week she bumped into the owner 3 times.....which had never happened previously. He asked her if she was stalking him. She replied, "No, but God might be!" This soon resulted in an offer to come to the warehouse and fill a shipping container with as much new furniture as they could stuff in it. When TAW put out an appeal for shipping funds, the money was promised in a matter of minutes.



God portrays himself in Scripture as the "father to the fatherless" and the "defender of orphans." (Pslam 68) And as Christians, we are called to the work of "taking care of widows and orphans."(James 1:27). This story illustrates God's desire to help us as we join him in his work (Eph. 2:10). He is ready for us to fall in step with his plans both for our benefit and for the benefit of the world! This story also illustrates one of TAW's favorite sayings, "They can't say "yes" if you don't ask!"

Recently, the Krals gathered donations and shipped a container from Rockport, TX. It was full of goods God had "dropped in their laps." Included in this were around 2,500lbs of laundry detergent and more furniture for the King's Home. This container also served as a conduit for a huge donation of much needed Hospice Supplies for Belize Hospice and Palliative Care. Here is a picture of James loading a pallet full of wheelchairs on to the container.

