

Donations in Kind - District 9790

QUESTION

What are you guys doing with all that stuff?

But . . . There is tonnes of stuff . . . and this medical gear will that go too?

Where on earth do you get a catheter lab?

Will they be able to use that stuff in PNG?

You said you sometime get useless stuff!
What kind of stuff?

When you get the container packed, who pays for the transport?

What has District 9790 done recently?

Can I help?

Yes but how does the stuff get from where its found, into a container and then onto a ship?

For more information

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ANSWER

Sorting the useful from the useless and packing it to go to a village in PNG where they have food, shelter and clothing but no brooms, mops and buckets . . . no books either.

Sure, we are packing a whole shipping container full of stuff. There will be tools, medical equipment, books, walking frames, wheel chairs, sterilising cabinets, we even cracked it for a catheter lab. The walking frames will go to villagers but the wheelchairs will go to Port Moresby. They are no good on bush tracks.

Rotarians are resourceful. We have a Rotarian in medical technology and this machine has been superseded but the old one still works. It's valued around \$600,000 and it went to a hospital in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

Yes, we always check first to make sure. There's nothing worse than sending stuff they don't want or can't use. We use local Rotarians and Rotarians who visit these places. And we may be able to raise a team of technicians to teach the local medical staff how to best utilise the equipment.

Just last week we took two loads to the tip . . . Electronic gear that can no longer be supported and needs consumables no longer available. It cost us nearly \$100.00 just to dump it. We even need to be careful with good stuff. Loads of good free second hand clothing once went to Bangladesh (not from us) and its presence wreaked havoc for employees in a fledgling local garment industry.

Rotarians and Rotary Clubs put up thousands of dollars collectively and we cut some great deals with shipping freight forwarders. What we must be careful of is not to overestimate the value of the contents for customs duty in needy countries. Foreign Customs departments often levy huge sums on donated goods and it is frustrating when that happens, That's why it's always best to go through the District DIK Committee.

Lots! We supported a roofing steel plant in East Timor. Hospital beds went to Sri Lanka. We supported Sri Lanka and Ache following the tsunami, the Solomons, PNG and Vanuatu and we sent a load of school books, pens, paper, crayons, pencils, all sorts of things that school children in Australia take for granted, to East Timor. Hey . . . school children there need good memories, they write with a stick in the dirt.

Yes, keep an eye open for stuff that's being superseded or discarded but tell us, it's important to ask at District level first. At times we get overloaded with books. They're fine but too many can be a problem. Hospital beds, although desperately needed in some nearby countries can be a nightmare if there is nowhere to store them, no hospital to receive them and not enough doctors to treat patients.

Rotarian Power and connections! It simply requires lots of willing hands to sort, pack, catalogue and place into the containers. It is super important that the 'load sheet' which accompanies any container is accurate. A stray unlisted computer in a container left a desperately needed shipment sitting on a wharf in Dili for 18 months.

David Meller (R.C. Strathmore) is prepared to go to any Club in the District and talk about DIK. He has a Powerpoint presentation available to help illustrate this valuable program of Rotary. Phone: (03) 9379 3577 or e-mail: dmeller@optusnet.com.au