

Westmount Window Article

Recycling Service Lets Users Stay in Their Pyjamas

Imagine a recycling service that allows you to recycle without ever having to leave the comfort of your own home—much less your pyjamas. With Winnifred Stewart Association's Recycle Enterprises beverage container recycling program you don't have to waste precious time or gas driving around the city looking for a depot. Instead, households in Edmonton can call Winnifred Stewart Association (WSA) at 413-8846 to sign up for this completely free recycling container service.

Households that sign up receive a recycling stand and bags from WSA, which can then be filled with empty beverage containers. On pre-scheduled pick-up dates, you can leave the bags outside on your doorstep and WSA employees will take care of the rest, including issuing you tax receipts for every full bag collected.

When Winnifred Stewart Association first started its residential beverage container recycling program in partnership with Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) in June 2006, it placed 75 collection bins in one Edmonton neighbourhood. Today, the beverage container recycling program operates city-wide, has a customer base of over 4,000 residential participants (WSA expects this to double by next year), looks after 300 business and government agency participants, and keeps countless beverage containers (2.5 million to date) from entering landfills.

Users of the service can stay in their pyjamas (if they feel inclined) while WSA's employees collect from their doorsteps. Many of the employees are WSA clients who gain employable skills through this program's on-site work experience and training. This recycling service is one of many opportunities supported by WSA's Day Services. Day Services focuses on personal growth and social-skill development through career training, volunteer placements, recreation and leisure, and on-site work experiences.

What started out as a Day Services employment training opportunity in the community has turned into an all-in-one solution with far-reaching benefits. "There's no other service like this one in the city," declares Larry Smook, Winnifred Stewart Association's CEO. "Participants are signing up for more than just recycling. They're saving the environment, they're saving time, and they're supporting Winnifred Stewart Association. It's a win-win-win situation."

Winnifred Stewart Association is located in the heart of the Westmount community on 131 Street, just off 111 Avenue. This innovative non-profit organization has been enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities since 1953. WSA has evolved from its original beginnings as a school for children with disabilities into the unique organization that it is today. Currently, over 200 adults are receiving recreation, employment and residential supports through WSA.

For more information about WSA, its services or its career opportunities, visit the website at www.winnifredstewart.com.