



CRUTCHES 4 AFRICA

Our Interact District 5495's Signature International Service Project Collection Ideas That Work



1. Many communities in Arizona have nonprofit organizations that go by such names as “**Lending Closet**” and “**Care Bears**” that loan mobility devices and other items to Seniors not available to them from Medicare or their other insurance providers, who cannot afford to purchase them. Families donate used mobility equipment to these agencies when they no longer need them. However, most of these organizations receive more mobility devices than they can use. So, if you explain to them what we are doing through our Interact C4A Project, they are usually willing to give the equipment to you to put to good use in Kenya, if you will agree to pick up their excess on a regular (weekly or monthly) basis. These can be very productive relationships for your club to establish.
2. Likewise, **Salvation Army**, **Goodwill** and **St. Vincent de Paul** are other organizations that, at times, become overloaded with mobility devices they cannot use. Check with them periodically.
3. Sponsoring Rotary clubs for Interact clubs are good partners to enlist in gathering no-longer needed mobility devices. Many Rotarians have them, and have connections with other people who do also.
4. Nursing home facilities and hospitals often have wheelchairs and other mobility devices that are left behind or are given to them when someone dies. Consequently, you would be surprised how many of them have extra mobility equipment they would like to have put to good use. Develop relationships with the administrators of these facilities.
5. Persuade Rotarian-owned businesses (and others) to allow your club to create and place in their stores attractive collection boxes for crutches and other mobility equipment. However, monitor these, and pick up the collected items on a regular basis, so an excess does not become a problem for the store owner.
6. Some Interact clubs have created door hangers to place on front door handles in selected neighborhoods several days before the weekend, informing residents about the Interact Crutches 4 Africa program, and promising to pick up any crutches or other devices they may have on that Saturday morning or afternoon that they have placed on their porch and designated for Interact to pick up.
7. Many neighborhoods have a Homeowners Association. Sometimes these are willing to publish in their newsletter information about the Interact Crutches 4 Africa Project, and a phone number that can be called if they have mobility devices they would like to donate.
8. Interact Crutches 4 Africa Project flyers can be posted in doctors’ offices that include a number that can be called to arrange for pickup of an unused crutches and other mobility devices that patients may still have at home.
9. Finally, churches are also great groups of caring people who are usually interested in something like this Interact Crutches 4 Africa Project. They are often willing to publish in the church newsletters and worship bulletins notices encouraging their members and their friends to bring crutches and any other mobility devices they no longer need to the church. Periodic pickup by Interact clubs of these devices is then needed.