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Eden Hill Communities launches medical equipment donation depot

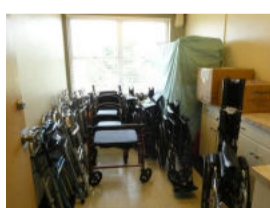


By [Shaheryar Khan](#) | 4:59 PM May 28, 2024 CDT

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Eden Hill Communities and Project MEND have partnered to provide refurbished medical equipment to those in need across Comal County, anchoring a donation depot in New Braunfels. (Shaheryar Khan/Community Impact)



[Eden Hill Communities](#) and [Project MEND](#) (Medical Equipment Network for those with Disabilities) have partnered to provide refurbished medical equipment to those in need across Comal County, anchoring a donation depot in New Braunfels.

The background

Eden Hill Communities is a nonprofit organization—based in New Braunfels for 114 years—that provides a range of living and care options for seniors, said Terry Jackson, director of marketing for Eden Hill Communities, including:

- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Licensed Caregiver Services
- Hospice Care

Project MEND is a nonprofit organization that refurbishes and redistributes durable medical equipment to individuals with disabilities and illnesses for over 30 years, said Kristy Walston, chief development officer for Project MEND.

The nonprofit also recycles equipment that can't meet state standards, Walston said, preventing it from ending up in landfills.

About the program

The initiative through the collaboration aims to facilitate the collection, refurbishment and redistribution of medical equipment to individuals in need, Jackson said, enhancing accessibility to resources and promoting community support for those with disabilities or illnesses.

Project MEND received a grant from the [McKenna Foundation](#) in 2023 to support their efforts in increasing the number of individuals served in Comal County, Jackson said.

Project MEND serves people who cannot afford new medical equipment, charging \$20 annually for enrollment in their program.

The goal for the remainder of this year, as the program is in its pilot stage, Walston said, is to serve at least 75 individuals. Last year, they served just under 20 individuals in Comal County.

Project MEND serves over 45 counties, Walston said. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year:

- 1,864 individuals received medical equipment
- 5,681 medical equipment was distributed
- 120 tons of medical equipment was kept away from landfills

The following types of medical equipment are in high demand and are sought after for donation and refurbishment by Project MEND to assist individuals in need within Comal County, Jackson said, including:

- wheelchairs
- rollator walkers
- tub transfer benches
- power wheelchairs
- home hospital beds

Looking ahead

On June 15, Eden Hill Communities will host a kickoff donation event in partnership with Project MEND, where community members can bring gently used medical equipment.

"If it's old, if it's dirty, don't worry about it," Jackson said. "[Project MEND] can use it, or they will recycle it properly."

The event will feature coffee, food trucks, games and music, according to a May 22 news release.

The event marks the launch of Eden Hill as a permanent donation site for medical equipment, Jackson said.

Apart from donations, volunteers are also needed, Jackson said, for the donations depot.

This collaboration is a pilot project, Jackson said, with plans to potentially expand and refine the process of collecting and distributing equipment based on community needs and response.

By [Shaheryar Khan](#)
General assignments reporter

Shaheryar is a general assignments reporter at Community Impact, covering New Braunfels. He earned his degree from the University of Houston-Downtown in the spring of 2023 and began interning with CI the following summer. After interning, he joined full time covering real estate and development news in Houston. Prior to CI, he actively contributed to UHD's student publication, The Dateline, and was part of the college's radio station, UHD iRadio.



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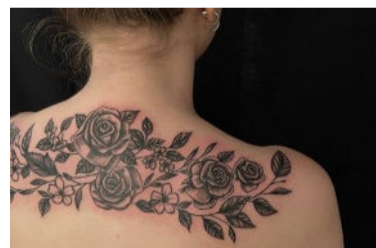
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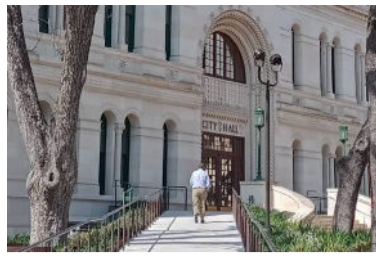
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