

PHONES FOR LIFE OPENS DONATE, LEARN & RECYCLE CENTER
Makes a Simple Environmental Act Easy for Immediate Social Good
Center Accepts Used Electronic Waste Materials to Support Distribution of Used Cell Phones for Emergency 9-1-1 Service for Low Income Seniors

(La Crescenta, CA – December 8, 2005) *Phones for Life opened its first storefront DONATE, LEARN & RECYCLE CENTER at 2754 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA 91214 to receive donations of used cell phones and portable communications devices, and electronic . Michael Antonovich Mayor of Los Angeles County, and La Crescenta Chamber of Commerce President Rick Dinger – The “Mayor” of La Crescenta - joined Dr. Dee L’Archeveque, MD FACEP, founder and CEO and Gary Lochansky, Executive Vice President of Phones for Life* in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Local children colored the walls of the Donate, Learn & Recycle Center with messages of Safety for Seniors and Environmental Benefits of E-Cycling.

Phones for Life opened this Donate, Learn & Recycle center to facilitate both donations of used cell phones for distribution to low income senior citizens to provide free emergency 9-1-1 service as well as donations of electronic waste to financially support Phones for Life operations. Cell phones, pagers, blackberry’s and other communications devices are traded via electronic recycling contracts for several standardized models of simple phones which are then programmed for one-button dialing to reach “9-1-1” service. Phones for Life is unique in that all used cell phones and portable communication devices, i.e. pagers, walkie-talkies, and blackberry’s donated are converted into Phones for Life phones which are distributed to qualified seniors. One modern cell phone or blackberry may generate as many as twenty cell phones for distribution.

The remaining electronic waste donated will be process through licensed electronic material recyclers to generate cash to both support daily organizational efforts, as well as to fund Phones for Life’s latest effort providing prepaid emergency packages of 100 cell phone minutes so that Phones for Life seniors can use their Phones for Life to reach other emergency contacts such as caregivers, family or doctors.

“Phones for Life has a very innovative program providing a very convenient way to donate old cell phones -- that have to be recycled anyway -- to benefit and protect our County's vital senior community.” said Michael D. Antonovich , Mayor of Los Angeles County.

“The Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to have such a successful charity open up shop in La Crescenta. Not only do they provide a great service to seniors they teach a great lesson in recycling,” said Mr. Dinger. ”The Chamber looks forward to partnering with Phones for Life to help senior citizens keep safe.”

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Phones for Life seeks to raise awareness of proper recycling practices for electronics products. There are over 500 million cell phones in use in the United States, and with an average use of only 18 months, over 125 million are discarded every year totaling 65,000 tons of cell phone waste. Cell phones, like many electronic products are comprised of metal (40%), plastic (40%) and ceramics and trace metals (20%).

“We are looking to improve the quality of life for seniors and our communities. The act of donating electronic waste is simple effort, yet offers an immediate social benefit,” states Dr. Dee L’Archeveque, MD, FACEP. “Not only does e-cycling remove potential toxins from the solid waste stream, what is even more compelling is the impact these phones have on the lives of seniors.” “Our research shows a definitive sense of safety and security in Phones for Life seniors which encourages their movement out and about in the community,” Dr L’Archeveque explains, “ with improved social interaction, psychological benefits, increased physical activity and associated improvements in cardio-vascular status, among other benefits.”

The Donate, Learn & Recycle Center will be open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, and will have a passive donation drop that allows electronic donations to be dropped off every day on a seven day - 24 hour basis. Phones and funds can be donated via the Phones for Life web site at www.phones4life.org.

Phones For Life, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization serving senior citizens 65 years and older, mainly retirees who live alone and are dependent on social security or have limited economic resources. Phones For Life cell phones provides free emergency 911 service to qualified applicants. For information about Phones For Life, or to donate phones or funds, visit www.phones4life.com.

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