

March, 2023

Hello!

When is the last time you felt moved to donate? What was the cause that moved you? Animals, People, Church projects, Disease, Misfortune, Non-Profits, Medical?

When you read the purpose and reason an entity is asking for your donation, what words connect with you? Example: Little puppy found by the riverbank, shivering next to lifeless body of his apparent sibling, he himself is very sick with parvo, please help us today with his medical bills.

Or, yesterday, our colleague received her test results, it's stage 4 cancer. She has 4 children she's raised alone since the sudden, unexpected death of her husband. Please, let's join together and make sure she knows her community rallies behind her – please donate \$10 today. Rest assured all proceeds will go to paying off her mounting medical bills.

There's no denying there are true and dire circumstances everywhere you turn. With social media being a main staple for information, the dire situations have been amplified, you cannot and will not go a day without seeing a plea for help.

The more sensationalized it is, the more traction it gains. The shock and awe really would move people. Unfortunately, desensitization is also at play, and many good Causes have a more difficult time with fundraising.

Our Sheltered Workshop, Earthwise Industries, of Lincoln County, MO, has been in the same location since 1970. 1970! We've weathered the weather! We've had our ups and downs, our, "are you kidding me moments," our, "oh my goodness will we make it through these deficit moments." We've laughed, we've cried, yet through it all, we've never given up. Why not you ask? Because when we look out on the people we serve, their smiles, their contagious laughs, and their big personalities, we are humbled, and we simply are honored to serve them.

We have employees that have been with us as long as 40 years! Have you stuck with anything for 40 years? That's dedication! Other employment examples include 18, 25, 28, 2 years!

Are you moved yet? No, I haven't said what we do, I've yet to "move" you.

We serve the disabled population, the intellectually and physically disabled community. The people you typically don't see in the general workforce.

We provide them with jobs that are fun, creative, challenging, thought provoking, safe, but most of all, dignified. Jobs are brought in with much thought and consideration. We always make sure it best serves our employees before we sign a contract with a company.

What do we currently do? Long term has always been recycling cardboard and aluminum. We have employees that drive company trucks to contracted locations to pick up cardboard, bring it back, and bale it. We also have 8-10 bins outside our warehouse for the public to bring their clean cardboard, same with aluminum. We have 5 full-time recycling employees!

Inside our main warehouse, we have been awarded a dog treat fulfillment job, with Treat Planet out of Earth City. Labeling, heat-treating, counting, boxing, palletizing, etc. Treat Planet is known for their generosity in awarding fulfillment jobs to Sheltered Workshops!

We also process the donations that come into Budget Boutique – our non-profit, tax free, resale store. As the community brings in their clothing, books, household items, and furniture, our employees get busy deeming it sellable or not. It's a lot of fun for them, (and us!)

Now, back to 1970. If you were born during that year (before or close to it), or know someone who was, that puts you at 53 or older. Have you had "repair" needs in those years?...for example, house repairs...maybe the roof, hot water heater, HVAC, toilets, flooring, needed to be replaced? Most of you have, most of you may have wondered or stressed over HOW to pay for it, WHO was going to complete it, WHAT is going to fail next?? Surely it was a bit stressful, and anxiety is a dreadful feeling!

Here's the ask: Our warehouses need repairs. Plain and simple. We have very leaky roofs, interior panels that need to be replaced, flooring that has never been changed, employee bathrooms that still look and function like school bathrooms (very little privacy), a lunchroom that looks more like truck stop, equipment, plywood flooring in our resale shop that truly needs an update, uncovered storage that definitely needs protection from the weather, much needed fencing in several locations to fend off thieves, cameras for safety and identification....the list goes on and on.

We are in need. We need your help. \$100.00, \$200.00, \$1000.00- even \$10.

Your help keeps our sweet employees employed doing what they love, what they've known for decades, what they look forward to. Their friends are there, their socialization, their fun, their rewards are here with us! We reward them MONTHLY with an appreciation meal or special snack! They are constantly told how much we appreciate them! Our present Staff has a true heart for them, a soft and pliable heart that molds itself around each and every employee.

Your Donations are gladly accepted once, twice, on a monthly or yearly basis! Checks can be made out and sent to:

Earthwise Industries

1386 S Main St.

Troy, MO 63379

They can also be brought directly to Budget Boutique, 8 Community Ct, 63379, ATTN: Laure, Store Manager.

And you can do a little shopping while you're there! We've recently remodeled our Lower Level – it's awesome – check out our "art gallery!"

Bottom line is, we appreciate any and all help: we're truly looking for monetary donations, monthly reward donations, volunteers, AND if you own a company or have a project that we can bring in-house to fulfill, we are your people!! *Please ask for Patti Mueller, Director, if you have a job for us!

Check us out: Earthwiseindustries.org

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Patti Mueller, Director

Maureen Nissing, Case Manager

Laure Danner, Store Manager

Evelyn Cummins, Bookkeeper

Amber Butler, Secretary

Chris Creel, Warehouse Supervisor

Keonon Rodgers, Floor Supervisor

AND ALL OF OUR SUPER AMAZING EMPLOYEES