

Share Your Soles Shoe Collection a Great Success!

Approximately 6,000 pairs of new and gently-used shoes were collected by the Kankakee County Planning Department as part of America Recycles Day 2006 activities. Nineteen schools participated in the collection, with Limestone School being the winner of a 6' recycled plastic park bench, having collected approximately 1,000 pairs of shoes. Limestone School will be recognized and awarded this prize at the December Kankakee County Board meeting. It is hoped that area school children learned the benefit of reusing an item rather than throwing it into the garbage.

The shoes were shipped to the Share Your Soles warehouse and processing center in Alsip, Illinois. Share Your Soles is a 501 (c) (3), tax-exempt charitable organization with the mission of providing shoes to the neediest corners of the United States and the world. It is a completely independent organization, not affiliated with any church, religious, or government entity, and espouses no political or philosophical positions except that it is worthwhile to give shoes to people and children who have none, and who all too frequently undergo infections, snake bites, and amputations due to living without a pair of shoes.

Kankakee County would like to thank the following people for assisting in the collection: Greif Containers, Inc. of Bradley who donated collection barrels; St. Rose Church of Kankakee 8th grade confirmation students, their mothers, and Sister Jean Clennon for assisting with shoe sorting and cleaning; Lori Naese of Speckman Realty for donating the use of a moving truck; and the Kankakee Highway Department for providing storage space and help in loading/transporting the shoes.

The Kankakee County Planning Department is looking for volunteers to continue this effort by running a permanent Share Your Soles drop-off site which will require periodic transport of the shoes to Alsip, Illinois. If interested, please call Donna Shehane at 815-937-2940, Ext. 230.



Barrels of Shoes being loaded onto truck