St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County: Reclaiming materials to create jobs

- Retail thrift
- Mattress recycling
- Materials management
- Upcycling textiles
- Rebuilding broken furniture
- Post-manufacturing waste reuse
Strategic vision

Building the global circular economy

Problem: Too much stuff that still has value goes to waste

Solution: Sort, repair, upcycle materials and direct to new markets

Urban surplus

Landfills, Incinerators

What is lost:
- Money
- Jobs
- Embodied energy
- Usable goods

Rural shortfall

Small towns short on quality goods

What is preserved:
- Money
- Jobs
- Embodied energy
- Usable goods
- Quality of life
## Materials as assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clothing and other textiles</th>
<th>Cardboard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belts, purses and accessories</td>
<td>Microwaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel, copper, aluminum, Brass</td>
<td>CFCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foam</td>
<td>Candles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window glass</td>
<td>Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household goods</td>
<td>Appliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and magazines</td>
<td>Mixed plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVDs, CDs and videos</td>
<td>Stuffed toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane tanks</td>
<td>Electric cords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire extinguishers</td>
<td>Motor oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cars and other vehicles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We Create Value-Added Products

- Rebuilt Mattresses
- Dogma Dog Beds/covers
- Dogma Leashes
- Brick-O-Wax
- Skate wax
- Eco Fire
- Eco Batting
- Cotton Wiping Rags
- Upcycled products
Re-envision materials for reuse

What the heck is it?

What can we do with it?
Materials management businesses create jobs

SVDP Employment 1983 - 2017
Solid waste officials let us intervene in the waste stream at transfer sites to pull usable materials before they are commingled.
Manufacturers, retailers give surplus for reuse, community donations

- Mattresses, usable as is, donated to families in need
- Strapping, used to make purses, dog collars, sell to DIYers
- Vinyl banners used to make wallets, bags
- Partner with online vendors
- Seconds, returns from retailers
Allies share news, lobby for legislative/regulatory solutions

- Californians Against Waste: Co-sponsored mattress stewardship law in California. Much of a deconstructed mattress goes back into remanufacturing. New law will triple reuse of materials

- Cascade Alliance, a network of nonprofits diverting materials, sharing best practices

Foam and mattress toppers

Becomes carpet padding
# Materials Diverted in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Metal</td>
<td>8,786,652 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>7,480,000 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>3,749,480 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Waste</td>
<td>7,060,000 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>15,820 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-waste</td>
<td>1,098,000 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes/Belts/Purses</td>
<td>164,307 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>218,786 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyurethane Foam</td>
<td>1,649,345 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/Cardboard/Magazines</td>
<td>126,390 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>66,431 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
<td>73,060 lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Waste Diverted: 30,488,270 lbs

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## Mattresses 2017

Deconstructed 353,000 mattresses in our four warehouses in Oregon and California.
Inventive style that makes a difference

Mitra DeMirza, fashion designer, hired in 2013

- Created system for identifying “original styles” product line, used clothing that appeals to youth
- Asked to find use for damaged, broken materials that had no value in reuse markets
- Created “Envia” brand, upcycled products

Mitra’s feed stock:
- damaged vinyl records,
- worn out belts, torn clothing, single cowboy boots
- old airport conveyor belts and signs
- vinyl banners
- damaged fire hose
Oak Street average daily sales:

- 2013 $500
- 2014 $891
- 2015 $1,190
- 2016 $1,352

Oak Street boutique: Envia products, original styles
Mitra’s workshop

- Supports four production employees
- Six store employees
- Six to 10 festival events/year
- Earth day fashion show
- Four new seasonal product lines annually
- Online sales
The social benefit of reuse

Funds half our social services budget, allowing us to pay for:

• Four homeless shelter programs
• Resident services for 1,100 units of affordable housing
• $360,000 in direct emergency services to community members in crisis each year
• Job training
• 84,000 people helped annually
We mentor others nonprofits in business development

**Members of our growing alliance**

- St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County
- The Mustard Seed of Central Florida
- Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises
- UTEC, Inc
- Opportunity House
- The Urban League of Essex County
- Union Rescue Mission
- Finger Lakes ReUse
- Big Reuse
- Scrap Exchange

In 2016 our alliance, diverted 17 million pounds of materials, created 102 jobs and grossed $10 million in revenue
Thank you!

Terry McDonald, Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County
www.svdp.us

Cascade Alliance
www.cascadealliance.org

Envia Fashion
www.enviafashion.com