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## New "TEXTILE" Donation bins in Medfield - making recycling easy!

*Recycling and Fundraising Join forces with this new Townwide CSA program.*

By Colleen M. Sullivan (Open Post) (/users/colleen-m-sullivan)

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The kids are back in town and school begins tomorrow!

While many families spent their summer out of town, a few things happened here in Medfield. One of them is the placement of textile “Donation” bins at each school.

If you haven’t seen them yet, you will and you might ask yourself, “What is this all about?” so here’s the scoop.

First and foremost, these donation bins are for donating DISCARDED TEXTILES. This program is a Townwide CSA fundraising effort; but the function of this program reaches far beyond that!

Brittany Hardiman, Townwide CSA President, explained, "The Townwide CSA oversees the K-8 CSAs and collaborates with them to support the schools both financially and by volunteering."

"Keeping it local" is how it was explained to me. This new-to-Medfield textile donation plan will hopefully be an ongoing, sustainable program and the more Medfield residents recycle, the more money will come into the Townwide CSA.

Here is a frightening statistic. Did you know that the average American discards 70 lbs of textiles each year? Which means 520 million lbs per year of textile products end up in landfills. Sadly, 95% of those could have been recycled.

That statistic was given to me by Kathryn Larsen, the Recycling Development Coordinator at Bay State Textiles. This for-profit firm will manage these bins. They will frequently empty and weigh all donations before the items are taken by truck to their warehouse.

Hopefully all Medfield residents already RECYCLE paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and newspapers at the Transfer Station; and now they can add TEXTILES to their list of recycling by using these white donation bins!

This program is EASY and CONVENIENT for everyone.

"If you wear it, it can be donated!" That is the easiest way to remember what kinds of textiles are acceptable items for this recycling program. For instance, ripped jeans, holey socks, and worn out sweatshirts are welcome. Items such as these should be recycled in these bins, NOT discarded into the trash!

But donations are not limited to the "Bad and the Ugly", the "Good" are also welcome because once Bay State Textiles sends the donations to the warehouse, the items are baled and shipped to customers all over the world. When they arrive at their destination, they are graded. 45% of these items are reused (like those new jeans that never fit). Items such as that might end up on a hanger in a thrift shop or given to someone who needs them in an under-developed country. 30% of these textiles are made into industrial wiping cloths. 20% are created into a fiber product which is used for carpet padding or insulation (little known fact: most cars manufactured

include 50lbs of recycled textiles). And 5% of the donated textiles are waste. So, bottom line, the bins are located at the schools and Bay State Textiles will pay \$100/ton to the Townwide CSA for donated items.

If each Medfield Public School Student dropped off 2 kitchen trash bags filled with textiles (which could be clothing, shoes, backpacks, stuffed animals, or accessories like belts and ties) weighing a total of 10lbs, assuming there are 2,000 students in Medfield, that would be 20,000 lbs of textiles or 10 tons. Multiply that times \$100/ton and that would bring in \$1,000 to the Townwide CSA, and of course it would reduce the amount of textile waste! A win/win for all, I would say.

Please take a moment to learn more this program and read the full list of "Acceptable items" on the Bay State Textile website. <http://baystatetextiles.com> and learn how easy it is for each and every Medfield resident to get involved (whether you have a student in the Public Schools or not)! Please contact Brittany Hardiman at [britthardiman@comcast.net](mailto:britthardiman@comcast.net) with any questions.

Recycling is not only important for our community, it is important for our planet. Please Recycle!

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