

Operate a Supply Drive



Supply Drive for Renewal House
Photo by Craig Norberg-Bohm

What's a Supply Drive?

For a Supply Drive, a group of men collaborate with a sexual assault or domestic violence program to offer to conduct a supply drive. The program will determine a list of needed supplies. Then on a selected day, a team stands outside a store (with permission, of course) and passes out "wish list flyers" to customers, inviting them to buy a couple of extra items to donate to a local agency and place them in a collection box on their way out. Locations to consider are groceries, home goods or hardware stores located in popular plazas or independent locations. In collaboration with the program, a resource table is provided with information about the organizations services.

Why would I want to participate?

A supply drive is a practical and well-defined way for men and boys to work together and speak out against sexual assault and domestic violence, while also providing much needed resources to survivors and local programs. Supplies can range from book supplies for kids living in a shelter to house-wares for someone moving into a new apartment or outfits and toiletries for rape victims who must leave all clothes as evidence at the hospital. A supply drive also sends a public message to women and men alike who see an example of peaceful, caring masculinity and practical ways to help.

Massachusetts Examples:

Renewal House, a shelter for survivors of domestic violence located in Boston, operated their first Men's Supply Drive in the Spring of 2003. Renewal House is a project of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Urban Ministry and they have the benefit of a wide congregational district from which to draw support. Five men's groups, one from each of five churches, collaborated to mount the first drive and several subsequent drives on behalf of Renewal House. More recently, in fall 2007, male students from Boston area colleges held a Supply Drive to benefit additional centers. Their event accrued more than 45 boxes of supplies and \$400 in cash to send to HarborCOV in Chelsea and the Elizabeth Stone House in Jamaica Plain; two domestic violence programs.

Websites

<http://www.uuum.org/?q=node/14> (Renewal House)
<http://www.harborcov.org/>
<http://www.elizabethstonehouse.org/>
<http://www.nomasboston.org/>