



TRI-VALLEY Help-line

April 2007

Tri-Valley receives many questions from area Seniors and caregivers and has created this monthly Help-line column to provide some assistance. We are also available five days a week to answer individual questions.

Used Eldercare Equipment

Q: Where can I buy & sell used home care equipment?

A: There's a new service on the internet that will allow people to buy and sell equipment for individuals with disabilities. If you have some equipment that you no longer need - like a wheelchair, grab bar for the shower, hospital bed, tub seat, lift chair - there is now an "assistive technology" website with free listings.

The Assistive Technology Exchange of New England offers any device that helps a person with a disability to live more independently or safely. Supplies and equipment such as ventilators, oxygen equipment, and catheters will not be accepted. Items posing hygiene or safety risks also will not be listed.

The goal of the AT Exchange in New England is to put equipment that is not currently being used into the hands of someone who can benefit from it. People from states outside New England can list. The listings on the Exchange will include items for vision, hearing, speech communication, learning, cognitive, developmental, mobility, seating and positioning, daily living, environmental adaptations, transportation and vehicle modifications, computers, recreational, sports and leisure. The Exchange is not for vendors or distributors, it's for the individual who has an item, or is looking for an item. Companies are welcome to donate equipment.

Anyone can browse the AT Exchange on the internet, but to sell or buy, you first have to register, which is easy to do. Each person who signs up gets a unique user name

and password. Every listing submitted is reviewed by a staff person at the Exchange for approval. Staff at the AT Exchange can help review current listings for you, or post items on your behalf. You must update your listing at least once every 90 days, or it will be removed from the Exchange. Items posted within the last 7 days are identified with a “new” symbol. You can even search for items that have been added within the past 7, 14, or 30 days. Currently, there is only one item on the Exchange: a wheelchair for \$150 offered by someone in Hanover, Massachusetts. But check out this new service, and spread the word. In a few months, you may find something you really need for a loved one, or a friend.

To contact The Assistive Technology Exchange in New England, go to their website at <http://www.getatstuff.com/> or, you can reach them by email at ATinMA@getatstuff.com or by phone toll free 1-866-682-9955 (in state), 617-204-3851 (voice), 617-204-3815 (TTY), 617-204-3887 (FAX).

Tri-Valley continues to be ready to assist you with other questions through its free information & referral HELP-LINE at (508) 949-6640 or 1-800-286-6640. You may also access Tri-Valley by E-mail: info@tves.org or visit the agency’s Web Site at: www.tves.org

Tri-Valley, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation providing in-home and community based services in 25 Southern Worcester County towns. Marilyn L. Travinski is the executive director.

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