



IRN  
THE RECYCLING NETWORK

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Generators of Surplus Property  
From: Mark Berry, Surplus Program Manager  
Date: June11, 2009

Re: **Urgent Request for Scholastic Surplus**

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As you know, IRN partners with nonprofit organizations who place usable surplus property for disaster relief and economic development in the U.S. and around the globe. In the past six years IRN has helped move over 19 million pounds of goods into relief efforts.

One of our charitable partners, Food for the Poor, has put out a special call for scholastic furniture and equipment. The Caribbean Basin has been hit by more than a dozen devastating hurricanes in the past five years, and FFTP has launched a major initiative to rebuild and resupply schools that have been damaged or destroyed. IRN and FFTP will cover ALL costs to identify recipient locations, coordinate U.S. and overseas shipment, pay for trucking and ocean shipping, distribute the materials in recipient communities, and fulfill customs and other regulatory requirements. The only cost to the donating school or district is to load shipping containers, and cover onsite assistance (if any) that's needed – costs you'd incur for material movement anyway. Compared to the cost to throw stuff away, or to pay warehousing costs month after month, these costs are minimal. When a project closes, you'll get documentation, photographs, and a fantastic public relations story – at the same time that you've saved a lot of money. Opportunities don't get much better.

Usable surplus includes almost everything that comes out of a school environment – student and administrative desks, chairs, file cabinets, bookshelves, work and conference tables, library carrels and shelving, kitchen equipment, athletic equipment, lab benches, blackboards, whiteboards, easels, lockers, you name it. I had the opportunity last month to visit several FFTP relief projects in the Caribbean; I can assure you that the need for usable “castoffs” from U.S. schools is immediate, urgent, and overwhelming.

If you have surplus that will be available over the spring and summer or through the coming school year, I hope you'll get in touch by phone or over IRN's website, [www.irnsurplus.com](http://www.irnsurplus.com) (click “Contact us”).