
IRN - The Reuse Network

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Case Study in Reuse Drexel University, Philadelphia PA

Overview

As one of the country's premier engineering schools, Drexel University in Philadelphia has made a serious commitment to Sustainability. This is the basis for Drexel's longstanding relationship with The Reuse Network, which reaches back to 2010.

Built in the early 1980s and occupying half a city block, Myers Residence Hall was outdated and inefficient in its use of space and energy. When its long-planned demolition reached the top of the construction schedule, Drexel contacted The Reuse Network to arrange reuse of Myers Hall's student furnishings.

Implementation

Schedule and scale were the serious concerns on this project. With strong enrollment, Drexel faced the possibility that Myers Hall would be needed to house incoming students. As a result, the demolition schedule, including removal of the student furnishings, was unpredictable until the last minute. When the schedule was ultimately confirmed The Reuse Network had only three weeks to arrange labor, identify a nonprofit recipient(s), and set up transportation for the more than 1,500 pieces in the building.

Three stories tall, 125 yards from end to end, with only two small elevators and a single ground-level loading area, Myers Hall presented serious logistical challenges. The Reuse Network handled these by allowing a full day to bring down and stage as many items as possible in common areas and hallways before its first tractor-trailer arrived. The crew from Wayne Moving & Storage, a longtime Reuse Network partner, were outstanding in their planning and organization, filling each of five 53-foot trailers to maximum capacity in under two hours.

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Destination

A “furniture bank” is a nonprofit organization that collects and distributes furniture to families and individuals who are emerging from homelessness or addiction, escaping abusive relationships, readapting after incarceration, or for other reasons establishing a new home. Across nearly two decades The Reuse Network has provided thousands of items to nearly 40 furniture banks in 18 states. From Drexel Myers Hall, The Reuse Network provided furnishings filling five tractor trailers to a furniture bank serving Albany and surrounding towns and cities in upstate New York.

Totals

Item	#	Item	#
Bed (head+footboard, metal spring)	346	Chair	410
Mattress	380	Dresser	333
Lounge Chair or Couch	57	Other	20
		Total	1,546



Living room furniture ready to be loaded and shipped to a New York furniture bank.



A common situation: Maneuvering a 53-foot tractor-trailer on streets designed for horse and buggy.



Packing furniture high and tight, to maximize quantity and value delivered to the nonprofit recipient.



Drexel provided more than 1,500 items for needy individuals and families.

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