

IRN - The Reuse Network

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Case Study in Reuse Center Grove Community School Corporation, IN

Overview

The Center Grove Community School Corporation is a 7,700 student public schools district in the Indianapolis suburb of Greenwood, Indiana. The district solicited bids to replace student desks and chairs as well as other furnishings at all five of its elementary schools. The district required proposals to include disposition of the furnishings that were replaced.

Steelcase and their local Indianapolis dealer, Business Furniture, LLC, won the project, and credit the reuse program as playing a large role in the District's decision. Business Furniture's Director of K12 Education, Dainen Tolman, emphasized Steelcase/IRN's reuse capabilities for surplus school furniture and IRN's long relationship with Steelcase. The reuse program was highlighted throughout the bid process and discussions with the District.

Composition

Item	Number	Item	Number
Student Chair	4,696	Teacher's Desk	202
Student Desk	3,110	Task Chair	91
Work or Activity Table	440	Other	42
		Total	8,581

Implementation

Four of the schools were emptied in a nine-day period spanning two weeks in early June, immediately after students were dismissed for the summer. The final school was emptied a few weeks later to coordinate with the installation schedule for new furnishings.

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IRN hired Indianapolis company Hogan Transfer & Storage to carry out the move and load the trailers. The furnishings filled a total of fifteen 40-foot shipping containers, which were provided through IRN's network of nonprofit partners to communities in Guatemala and Yemen. In addition, 53-foot tractor trailers carried furnishings to outfit schools in rural Kentucky. The Center Grove schools' large parking lots and open landscape made this a straightforward project.

Destinations

Date	Container	Destination	Pieces	Date	Container	Destination	Pieces
5/30	APHU6	Guatemala	672	6/5	MSKU8	Yemen	568
5/30	TLLU4	Guatemala	772	6/6	MRKU3	Yemen	576
5/30	TGHU9	Guatemala	358	6/6	TCNU1	Yemen	420
5/31	APHU7	Guatemala	381	6/7	MRKU2	Yemen	146
6/3	FICU8	Guatemala	536	6/7	MIEU3	Yemen	457
6/3	TEMU6	Guatemala	544		Subtotal	Yemen	2,167
6/3	CMAU4	Guatemala	383	6/25	CAP1	Kentucky	421
6/4	TCNU5	Guatemala	560	6/25	CAP2	Kentucky	376
6/4	TLLU5	Guatemala	496	6/25	CAP3	Kentucky	297
6/5	TCKU6	Guatemala	618		Subtotal	Kentucky	1,094
Subtotal		Guatemala	5,320	Grand Total			8,581

IRN partners with charities to ship and distribute the furnishings where they are most needed and in quantities the nonprofits can use at their individual sites. As it did on this project, IRN often divides the inventory among three or more recipient organizations, taking special consideration of the needs of each group. IRN's onsite manager oversees dividing the furniture to assure that loads are balanced while meeting the requests of the individual charities.

This project highlighted the large number of furnishings IRN is able to pack into a single trailer. The average on this project was 477 pieces. Counting 30 desks with chairs plus a half dozen other items per classroom, one trailer carries enough to furnish more than seven classrooms for schools in need.



"The Reuse program set Business Furniture apart from competitors by providing a disposal solution that was hands-off, cost effective and truly impacting those in need."

**Dainen Tolman, Director of K12 Education,
Business Furniture LLC**

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