



COMPASSIONATE RESOURCES WAREHOUSE HELPS PEOPLE CLOSE TO HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

It happens – you're standing in line at security when you realize that you have a prohibited item in your carry-on baggage. You know you can't take it with you on your flight, but have you ever wondered what happens to it when you leave it behind? Something wonderful.

Items that are abandoned at Victoria International Airport's security checkpoint because they do not meet Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) regulations are passed along, via a local charity, to people who can use them. Compassionate Resources Warehouse (CRW) volunteers send unopened and fresh food and drink directly to the Sidney Lions Food Bank. Many other items are shipped overseas in large containers to charitable organizations and other qualified groups throughout the world.

On a regular basis, CRW volunteers load 12-metre containers full of carefully selected goods and equipment, including items that have been abandoned at YYJ, for delivery to people in developing countries who need support. A shipment may include dehydrated foods, quality medical equipment and supplies, clothing, linens, educational materials, tools, sewing machines, toys and bicycles, depending on what is available and the needs of the organization.

Tools for Change

While all manner of items may be abandoned at security, those with sharp edges are especially useful for their new recipients in developing countries. For people in many of the places that CRW ships, items such as knives, tools and scissors are uncommon. If they are available, they are likely priced beyond the means of many people.

These items bring freedom and possibilities for their new owners. Among other tasks, they can be used to repair homes and equipment, and work to create income. For example, CRW volunteers put scissors into sewing kits that include the supplies someone would need to earn money while mending clothing. As Donna Owens, who collects abandoned items for CRW explains, items that we may take for granted can make a life-changing difference for their new owners.

Since it began operating in 2000, CRW has shipped containers of goods to more than 65 developing countries. The containers provided welcome supplies for people at the schools, hospitals, orphanages, homes for the disabled, church groups and other qualified groups that requested assistance.

Because CRW ships only to organizations that have specifically requested supplies, there are no concerns that the donated goods will be unnecessary, unsuitable

or directed towards the black market. Rather, they bring hope and opportunity for people who have specific needs for them and plans in place to put them to good use.

Ian West, Director of Security and Terminal Operations at Victoria Airport Authority, speaks for everyone involved when he states: "We are glad that CRW can help make certain that our passengers' abandoned items continue their useful life and create some really positive change in the world."

For more information about this helpful, volunteer-driven organization, please see www.cwarehouse.ca. #



"I travel a lot, and I know how upsetting it can be when I have to leave something behind. But I have also seen joy and amazement on the faces of people who receive such items as part of a container shipment. They recognize the sacrifice that others have made.

In fact, some have felt guilty to know that they have benefitted from someone else's loss. In their lives, losing their tool might mean that they won't be able to work again. They have compassion and a deep appreciation for the person who has lost what they now possess."

Dell Marie Wergeland, Compassionate Resources Warehouse Operations