



TETON VALLEY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Supporting Teton Valley Hospital

120 East Howard Avenue, Driggs, Idaho 83422 208-354-6301

Teton Valley Hospital Foundation
Contact: Diane Temple, Executive Director
208.354.6317 ext 181
dtemple@tvhcare.org

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Shopping for Healthcare

See N Save Thrift store is a popular place to shop for secondhand clothes and slightly used merchandise for the entire family, with the added bonus of helping our community every time you buy something. The thrift store is owned and operated by the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation. All donations and purchases directly support the Hospital Foundation's mission of "supporting the development, improvement and expansion of the facilities, equipment and programs of Teton Valley Health Care."

Due to generous community support, over the past two years See N Save has contributed almost \$80,000.00 to the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation. With these proceeds, the Teton Valley Hospital Foundation purchased enhanced medical equipment directly benefiting the patients of Teton Valley Hospital. Some of these purchases included:

- Radiolucent 2-step platform for specific medical imaging needs;
- Gastro-video scope to help with gastro intestinal diagnosis;
- Ear, nose, and throat surgical instrumentation;

The Foundation was also able to provide emergency debt relief for TVHC through store sales.

Like all businesses, See N Save Thrift Store has operational costs such as wages, mortgage payments and utilities that offset gross sales. However, rising costs associated with preventable expenses have recently affected the store's purchasing power for supporting quality health care.

Milissa West, See N Save Manager, commented that the store's largest preventable costs are waste removal and surveillance fees, which can exceed \$800.00 a month. Sorting through unwanted or unmarketable waste and investigating theft is, by and large, one of the greatest operational costs that are incurred.

Despite signage detailing what cannot be donated, See N Save often receives outdated electronics, used tires, soiled mattresses and other items that result in large transfer station disposal fees. For example, in just one evening See N Save was "donated" several TV sets, old computer screens and outdated electronics that will cost a minimum of \$200 in disposal fees and employee time.

While community support is essential, there are certain items the thrift store cannot accept; either by law or simply due to the fact they are unmarketable, broken or consume too much space. These items typically include: infant car seats, used tires, large outdated computer screens and televisions, VHS players, obsolete copy and fax machines, building materials like unusable paint, etc., stained or pet damaged carpet, soiled mattresses, torn or stained furniture, and nonfunctioning large and small household appliances.

Reviewing and investigating theft during the See N Save's open and closed hours also add significant costs and has secondary emotional impact that does not show on a balance sheet. Monday mornings are always difficult; the See N Save staff—with help from volunteers - sort through weekend items that have been illegally dumped. Reviewing weekend surveillance tapes and seeing good quality donated items being removed from donation bins and holding areas have an intangible toll on morale. Staff believes that the steep increase in dumping and theft are probably indicators of tough economic times. Numbers from the Sheriff's office indicate illegal dumping and some forms of theft are on the rise from 2008.

“I think we can all agree there's a difference between the people who are sorting through our dumpster looking for discarded clothing versus people who are dodging transfer station fees or coming in the middle of the night to take merchandise from our property,” says West, adding that they've stepped up round-the-clock security measures.

“We want to continue to help those in need, which means we have to get tougher with those who steal.”

Currently there are several open cases with the Sheriff's Department of theft and illegal dumping both during and after business hours.

See N Save staff ask everyone to use their best discretion on the items donated. The best time to bring your contributions is during business hours. Monday thru Friday 10 am – 4pm and Saturday 10am- 3pm. It is through ongoing community support that See N Save will continue to help provide quality healthcare for the community.

See N Save is located at 125 East Howard Avenue across the street from Teton Valley Hospital. Acceptable donations are tax deductible according to current IRS tax law.
