



## Badger State Industries Wheelchair Refurbishing Program

The Wheelchair Refurbishing Program was implemented in 2001 at Redgranite Correctional Institution. The program currently employs nine (10) inmates. The purpose of the program is to refurbish donated wheelchairs and bath equipment for the Wheelchair Recycling Program in Madison. Upon completion the items are sent back to the Wheelchair Recycling Program. The chairs are then sold, at a discounted rate, to those in need of the equipment. The recipients of items offered by this program are non profit organizations and individuals that are unable to obtain them due to lack of insurance or funds. The program has even extended to such far away places as third world countries.

Another plus for this program is that these wheelchairs could have ended up in our landfills. We have saved tons upon tons of scrap from going there. The chairs we receive, that are beyond repair, are recycled for the metal. This helps absorb some of the cost for the service we provide.

The positive aspects of this program are quite profound. Since the program was implemented ten years ago there have been thousands of wheelchairs refurbished by RGCI. That means that thousands of people have had the opportunity to reap the benefits due to BSI's involvement. Inmates housed at RGCI, whose job it is to refurbish the wheelchairs and bath equipment, benefit also. They know they are helping people in need while, at the same time, bettering themselves by developing a work ethic and an employable skill that can be utilized upon their release into the community. This is proven to reduce recidivism.

BSI is expanding and developing services to government agencies and non-profit organizations in an effort to help others who have needs. Mostly those who can not participate in the Madison sponsored program because of logistics or other issues. We can provide a refurbishing and recycling service for agencies that qualify and provide that service at a fee that covers just the parts and materials/labor to repair the equipment. We have to stay in the non-profit or state/government agency areas; we can not provide services for private or for profit organizations. We refurbish state owned wheelchairs at the reasonable rate of \$80 for a manual wheelchair and \$160 for an electric wheelchair.

This is only a general overview of the Wheelchair Refurbishing Program. It is hard to tell you, on one page, the impact that this program has on the community and Wisconsin's inmates employed in the institutions that currently have this program. To learn more about this program and what it can do for your organization please contact any of the following:

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