



News Release

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### **Donate your shoes today!**

For Immediate Release

**(COLUMBUS, Neb.)** – With the new school year quickly approaching and back-to-school shopping in full swing, Columbus Community Hospital wants your gently worn and used shoes.

The hospital's volunteer and guest services department is hosting a shoe drive fundraiser to help raise money for medical equipment and program advancements at the hospital. Drive through and drop off your donations at the Columbus Wellness Center from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 18, or from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Sept. 17.

All donated shoes will be redistributed to microenterprise partners through Funds2Orgs, a for-profit social enterprise, and used in developing nations to help impoverished people to start their own businesses.

"We are excited about our new shoe drive fundraiser," said Angie Ramaekers, director of volunteer and guest services at the hospital. "We know that most people have extra shoes lying around in their closets. By donating their shoes, they can help raise money for medical equipment and program advancements at the hospital, and have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

People in the United States throw away more than 600 million pairs of shoes each year. Chemical compounds make up the materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes. If left to disintegrate openly or in landfills, the chemical compounds can cause health hazards. By donating your gently worn, used and new shoes, your shoes have a second chance to make a difference in people's lives worldwide.

To learn more about the fundraiser or volunteering opportunities available at the hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).

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