



“Collecting material for donation during move out is so easy! We’ll definitely keep the program for future move out periods.”

- Neal Toddy, Property Manager

BUSINESS OVERVIEW:

- West Campus, near UT-Austin
- 138 apartment units
- Most residents are students
- Mixed-use property with a first floor retail business

DONATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- » Reduced trash service by 33% during move out
- » Kept roughly 15,000 pounds of material out of the landfill
- » Worked with Goodwill and Salvation Army at no cost to pick up donated items during move out
- » Donated about 4,000 pounds of food and supplies to Keep Austin Fed during a restaurant closing
- » Saved more than \$1,000 in trash costs during move out

Challenges. Each summer, students move out of GrandMarc apartments after classes end at the University of Texas. In a typical year, significant volumes of reusable and recyclable material are thrown away during move out. GrandMarc contracts for a roll-off trash dumpster every summer to capture the additional material. The property manager wanted to donate material but was unsure how given the property's layout.

Solutions. GrandMarc's property manager contacted Austin Resource Recovery's (ARR) Business Outreach Team to discuss move out options. After a Zero Waste Assessment, staff offered the following advice:

- Contact a donation center to coordinate collections
- Separate cardboard to alleviate overflowing recycling dumpsters
- Start a non-perishable food collection

Results. GrandMarc contacted Goodwill, which delivered and collected containers free-of-charge throughout the summer (May through August). Goodwill provided collection bins for:

- Household goods
- Cardboard
- Textiles/clothes
- Electronics

Donation efforts resulted in approximately 15,000 pounds of material staying out of landfills – that's roughly the weight of a school bus!

The property manager also contacted Keep Austin Fed to offer supplies and bulk baking ingredients left behind from a recently closed, first floor restaurant.

Success Factors. Donation bins were placed in the lobby, resulting in high-visibility among residents. The property manager also sent email reminders to residents about donation efforts and encouraged tenants with bulky items to contact Salvation Army to schedule free pick-ups.

Looking Forward. GrandMarc's management hopes to improve donation efforts during the 2017 move out. The apartment complex is also considering providing recycling containers for each unit to encourage year-round recycling.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Type of Business » Mixed-Use
Neighborhood » West Campus
Zip Code » 78705
Building » 138 units
New to recycling? » No

AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY

Austin Resource Recovery's Business Outreach Team offers free consulting services to help businesses reduce waste, recycle materials and comply with Austin's Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO). Please contact us at: (512) 974-9727 or commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov



Donation bins for household items.