

Community Forklift honored with 2011 Image Award

Community Forklift Receives DC Metro National Association of Remodeling Industries' 2011 Image Award *Nonprofit-owned Business Helps Remodeling Industry to Go Green*

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Community Forklift, the DC area's largest nonprofit thrift store for home improvement, was presented with one of the local remodeling industries' most prestigious awards: the [Image Award](#) for service. Every year the National Association of Remodeling Industries (NARI) Metro DC Chapter honors its members for their service to the remodeling industry.



Designed to recognize members who have made significant contributions to the public image of NARI and the Metro DC Chapter, Community Forklift received the 2011 Image Award because of the enormous contributions it has made helping the remodeling industry “go green”. Community Forklift’s mission to recover building materials that can be reused instead of thrown away has taken hold within the industry.



Community Forklift picks up donations free of charge from local businesses, contractors, and individual homeowners in the greater DC metropolitan region. Recovered items are resold in its 40,000 square-foot warehouse thrift store, and donated to local nonprofits and individuals in need. Materials include everything from kitchen sinks and cabinets to landscaping materials, tools, and architectural salvage.

Jonas Carnemark is founder of [CARNEMARK Systems & Design, Inc.](#), and winner of several of this year’s professional remodeling awards. His company is one of the Forklift’s top corporate donors. He says, “We work with Community Forklift on nearly all of our projects. As a result of this partnership we are able to promote our green building practices, donate valuable materials for resale, and reduce our overall project costs, making it a win-win for everyone involved.”



Nancy Meyer, Community Forklift’s Chief Operating Officer was on hand to accept the award. “We are excited to be recognized for our efforts to recover and reuse building materials generated by the remodeling industry. Much of what they generally throw away can be reused by others, particularly low-income households that might otherwise be unable to make repairs or improve their properties due to the high cost of new materials.”

The staff and volunteers of Community Forklift are honored to receive this year’s NARI Metro Chapter’s Image Award. In 2012, they plan to establish more partnerships within the remodeling industry in order to expand reuse in the region.

About Community Forklift:

Community Forklift is a nonprofit reuse center for home improvement & architectural salvage. It accepts donations of new, gently-used, and vintage building materials like cabinets, mantels, doors, and lumber. The renovation supplies are then made available to the public at very low prices (40% to 90% below big-box stores), and donated to local nonprofits. To improve its financial stability, the organization has also brought in consignment partners to offer higher-end products: unusual antiques & primitives, raw-edge hardwoods, & reconditioned appliances. The program is owned & operated by local 501c3 nonprofit Sustainable Community Initiatives, so donations are tax-deductible.

Community Forklift's name refers to the organization's mission: to lift up local communities. Since opening in 2005, Community Forklift has made it possible for thousands of local homeowners and nonprofits to repair substandard housing. Not only have 18 green jobs been created at the store, but hundreds of local contractors have been able to keep their estimates low, allowing them to attract clients and keep working despite the tough economy. Reuse of materials also means that fewer materials go into the landfill (reducing the financial burden on local governments); and that less energy is used to extract, manufacture, and transport new materials. Community Forklift is better for our wallets and our world!

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