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COMMUNITY INSTITUTION SEEKS NEW LOCATION

COMMUNITY FORKLIFT LAUNCHES “FORKLIFT FORWARD”

EDMONSTON, MD – Community Forklift, a beloved community institution located in an industrial area on the outskirts of Hyattsville, Maryland, is undertaking an intensive search for a new location. The landlord of the nonprofit’s current 3.25-acre property, Washington Gas (and its new owner, Alta Gas LTD.), plans to discontinue intensive commercial use of the site.

As a coordinated response, Community Forklift is launching its “FORKLIFT FORWARD” campaign to raise funds and gather support to ensure the effective transition of Community Forklift to a new, secure home.



Community Forklift opened in late 2005, in its current 40,000 square foot warehouse located at 4671 Tanglewood Drive in Edmonston (Hyattsville), MD. As an integral institution within the Port Towns community of Prince George's County (and 5 minutes from the DC line), Community Forklift is an economic and community development engine that redistributes and sells building materials and home goods. The nonprofit provides free home necessities to local residents and organizations throughout the DMV area awarding almost \$1,000,000 worth of free materials in the last decade. Its warehouse serves as a local gathering place for vintage aficionados, fervent DIYers, hardworking contractors, renters, and homeowners of every walk of life who share a love or need of reused materials.

No other organization in the DMV area provides comparable critically needed building supplies to improve the everyday lives of community members, while rescuing these materials from the landfill. Community Forklift is proud to be a local provider of good green jobs, while employing individuals with traditional barriers to employment. The organization is also a beloved resource for DIY enthusiasts, interior decorators, craftspeople, collectors, and local artists looking for creative solutions to their projects.

The organization is not moving yet, and — in partnership with Washington Gas — is seeking to identify a new location for its innovative community building and economic development programs. It will take a good deal of planning, funding, and support to relocate successfully. The organization is currently reviewing finances and lending opportunities and working with real estate experts, local government officials, and pro bono professionals to put together a workable plan. Washington Gas has committed to ensuring the continued success of Community Forklift.

The search for a new location comes at a very challenging time in the industrial real estate market due to the lack of availability of warehouse space and steep increases in leasing and acquisition of such facilities.

There are no plans in the near future to cease operations at the current site and all current activities and programs will continue as usual. The focus for the search is to work as quickly as possible while ensuring a successful relocation. Community Forklift's goal for the new location is to be close to the urban DMV area, provide services to under-resourced communities, create good green jobs in the local community, and provide easy access to everyone who wants to take advantage of all that the organization offers: low cost materials, classes, workshops, and free materials for neighbors in need and local organizations.

"We may be searching for a new physical location, but that's not going to diminish our commitment one iota to serve our community," said Nancy J. Meyer, CEO of Community Forklift. "In the end, it's not about the stuff, but about the people. Making salvaged materials available for reuse benefits not just the environment, but also the people who donate those materials, the people who purchase those materials, the people who work to process those materials, and the people and organizations who receive our salvaged materials for free. All these people together are the local community that is lifted up by our nonprofit's work."

While the current location has been "home" to Community Forklift for more than 17 years, a new site will offer an opportunity for continued growth and improvement. A good deal of the organization's success is due to the support and engagement of local residents and community organizations. A new location will provide the ability to grow the organization's mission, services, and community building

activities. Community Forklift's goal is to provide more education, more reuse, more green jobs, and the same far below-market prices on materials to the community and the surrounding region.

The relocation will be an expensive undertaking so Community Forklift welcomes and encourages those who can provide financial support and/or assistance in identifying funding resources. This announcement is the launch of the FORKLIFT FORWARD campaign to support the relocation effort.

Forklift Fans who have relationships in commercial real estate, in public relations, in the political sphere, and in non-profit fundraising are encouraged to send proposals for how they can help to

ForkliftForward@communityforklift.org.

Community Forklift is all about the people: the community, the staff, and everyone who visits the reuse warehouse. The continued support of shoppers, volunteers, and donors of materials and funds will help Community Forklift achieve its goal of obtaining a new home in the next several years.

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COMMUNITY FORKLIFT IMPACT

- Staying open for services 362 days per year and serving over 72,000 visitors yearly
- Diverting over \$45 million of usable materials from local landfills
- Providing over \$975,000 in free materials to households with limited income and community organizations
- Directly impacting over 580,000 individuals through the provision of free materials
- Creating 30+ good green local jobs with starting wages of \$17 per hour and extensive benefits
- Employing "returning citizens" and those with employment barriers
- Partnering with hundreds of nonprofits, community groups, local governments, businesses, the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland