

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

Western New York Independent Living offers a number of services to our consumers to assist with many aspects of life.

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One of those services is the existence of medical equipment loan closets at each of our three independent living centers where consumers can borrow gently used equipment.

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Joining us today to tell us more about the loan closets at WNYIL are Aaron Baier, our agency's Chief Operations Officer, and Niccanda Watkins, Independent Living Specialist at the Buffalo Independent Living Center.

00:00:39 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program, colleagues.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

Thank you for having us.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Our pleasure.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

First, can you tell us a little bit about the loan closets at WNYIL's Independent Living Centers?

00:00:51 Speaker 1

What items are available and who is eligible to borrow them?

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Absolutely.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

So Western New York Independent Living, we have our three main Independent Living Center locations, our Buffalo Center, our center in Batavia, New York, Independent Living of the Genesee Region,

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and our Niagara Falls location, Independent Living of Niagara County.

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Each location has its own loan closets with inventories of durable medical equipment from wheelchairs to shower chairs, commodes, walkers, and crutches.

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Any person with a disability or family member is eligible to loan items out of these loan closets

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for use with permanent or temporary disability needs after a surgery or while they wait for permanent solutions through their insurance.

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And of course, since this is a loan closet, that means there's no charge for using them.

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What is the process for borrowing something from the loan closet?

00:02:03 Speaker 2

Absolutely.

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It's a free service and the process is really simple.

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Contact our office.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

The main office number 716-836-0822 will get you to any of these three locations to identify if the item you are in need of is available.

00:02:26 Speaker 1

Wonderful.

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And but of course, the loan closet items have to come from some place.

00:02:33 Speaker 1

And that's because kind people have donated gently used items.

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What things are accepted and what is the process to make a donation?

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So, the things that is in the loan closet, the things that we do accept, we do request that they are in excellent or good condition.

00:02:55 Speaker 3

We do accept, like Aaron said, the wheelchairs, the walkers, either myself or Charlene, our program assistant, usually makes the determination of the items that we may need due to storage space.

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Wonderful.

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And I'm sure that people will want to get more information about the loan closets and what's available.

00:03:20 Speaker 1

What are some good numbers to use to contact people?

00:03:25 Speaker 3

So you can either call the direct numbers, 716-836-0822, and you can reach the, excuse me, the reception, who will either direct you to myself at 716-836-0822, extension 107, or Charlene, who is our program assistant.

00:03:45 Speaker 3

Her number is 716-836-0822, extension 156.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

That sounds wonderful.

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It's a very valuable thing.

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And since a lot of medical equipment, durable medical equipment anyway, is not cheap if you buy it outright, this is a wonderful thing that's you're providing here.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

If you could, if you could reach out the major number in our closing seconds here.

00:04:17 Speaker 3

I would like to add that there are items that we don't accept, and that would be hospital beds.

00:04:22 Speaker 3

If there are hospital beds that you need to give out to someone, we can definitely give you their information to resources that may accept them.

00:04:30 Speaker 1

Wonderful.

00:04:31 Speaker 1

Thank you both so much for being with us.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Thank you.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

For having us.

00:04:36 Speaker 3

Thanks for having us.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

Our guests today have been Aaron Baier, the Chief

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Operations Officer of Western New York Independent Living and Niccanda Watkins, Independent Living Specialist at the Buffalo Independent Living Center.

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I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.