



CAHA Global Soap Recycling Project

GLOBAL
SOAP
PROJECT



"Handwashing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia, which together account for 3.5 million child deaths annually."

— UNICEF Soap, Toilets & Taps, 2009

What is the Global Soap Project? The Global Soap Project (GSP) is a non-profit organization with tax-exempt 501(c) 3 status that recovers and recycles soap from US hotels that would otherwise end up in landfills. The soap is sorted, melted and remolded into new bars to be distributed to vulnerable populations around the world such as refugees, orphans and disaster victims.

Why soap? There are approximately 4.6 million hotel rooms in the United States that discard over 2 million partially used bars of soap every day! The number one preventable killer of children in Africa is unsanitary conditions mostly due to lack of soap. For children under the age of five years, two of the leading causes of death are diarrhea and lower respiratory infections, which can be prevented with proper use of soap and water. By availing soap and water it's estimated that one can reduce unnecessary deaths by over 40%

How does it work? Simple! Instead of discarding used bars of soap from hotel rooms, participating hotels collect them for GSP. In Charlotte, we have a central collection point for all of the regional hotels. Once you have a supply on-hand, simply drop it off at the Residence Inn Charlotte Uptown, 404 S. Mint Street during normal business hours. Once they have a large inventory, CAHA will contact GSP to either pick up the soap or for shipping information. GSP would like to have a minimum of 2,000 pounds for a pick up and 3-5 days lead-time. *Hint:* According to GSP rough estimates, 2,000 pounds of soap is approximately 16,000 bars of soap if a used bar weighs about 2 ounces. You may want to keep up with your hotel's contributions by using this formula. Once the soap reaches the GSP warehouse, it is sorted, melted, purified and processed into new bars of soap, which are then delivered to those in need.

Who are the recipients of the soap and how are they selected? Vulnerable populations including orphans, refugees, and disaster victims are the targets for

GSP's efforts. In the last year, shipments of soap have already been delivered to Haiti, Uganda, Swaziland, Kenya, Ghana and St. Lucia.

How is the soap distributed? Logistics is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the organization. GSP is currently working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who have an established presence in countries GSP serves and where those NGOs can serve as the final distribution channel to the population in need. GSP continues to search for the most cost effective and efficient method to put soap in the hands of needy populations by exploring options of in-kind donations with a number of air and sea carriers.

What kind of container should we use to collect the soap? Collect soap in anything -- just make sure it's clean. It could be a hotel rollout bin, or as simple as a cardboard box, plastic crate, or plastic trash bag. But remember, you've got to get the soap to the Residence Inn Charlotte Uptown.

How should we store the used soap? Typically the soap is stored in the Housekeeping Department until there is a sufficient quantity for transferring to the Residence Inn Charlotte Uptown. You might

What if we want to just ship it direct? Ship soap only after notifying GSP of the amount of soap and date of delivery so GSP can make sure the warehouse is staffed. Notify GSP by sending an email to lilly@globalsoap.org. Once confirmed with GSP, soap donations can be shipped to: 6901 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, Georgia 30092, but remember, they do not pay for shipping, though it is deductible to you.

OK, my hotel wants to help, how do we get started? It's easy. Visit the GSP website at www.globalsoap.org where you will see space dedicated to their hotel partners titled *Hotel Check-In*. Complete the requested information, but remember, do NOT complete the information about pick-ups. Charlotte hotels have a central collection and drop it off at the Residence Inn Charlotte Uptown, 404 S. Mint Street and CAHA will coordinate pick-up with GSP from there. For more local information about participation, contact CAHA at 704-588-3255 or charlottehotels@aol.com

even collaborate with some of your neighboring hotels.

