

Cell phone donations made easy and pleasant

Community businesses are teaming up to help those in need. McDonald's, Barbeck Wireless, Kankakee County sheriff's police department and 911 Cell Phone Bank held a kick-off for the launch of Safe Cell at the Bradley McDonald's on Rt. 50 on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007.

Amie and Josie Linman, twin daughters of area McDonald's owners Judy and Larry Linman, hosted the event and are active supporters of the program at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School.

Safe Cell is a cell phone recycling program designed to promote the donation of unused cell phones to be reconditioned for emergency use and provided to local community non-profit groups.

During the event, held in conjunction with America Recycles Day, 50 recycled emergency cell phones were donated to area groups including KC-CASA, Kankakee County TRIAD for Seniors, Harbor House and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The Kankakee County Sheriff's Police Department has already donated phones recycled by 911 Cell Phone Bank. "These recycled emergency cell phones have the opportunity to save lives," said Tim Bukowski, Kankakee County sheriff. "By giving at-risk residents a cell

phone that dials 911, we are giving them a life-line of safety."

In addition, 911 Cell Phone Bank, will contribute \$1 for every donated phone to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"The community outreach of this program is tremendous," said Larry Linman. "By donating your phone you have the opportunity to help people, from the family of a seriously ill child staying at the Ronald McDonald House to a senior citizen helped in an emergency."

"We feel strongly about this program, and really feel it's important to bring to our community," said Amie. Josie continued, "We truly feel our involvement brings a cross-generational message to the community on the importance of this program."

Community members may donate cell phones by bringing them to the following drop off locations: Bradley and Bourbonnais McDonald's; Barbeck Wireless in Bourbonnais, 761 Main Street NW; the Kankakee County sheriff's department; Bradley police department at 147 S. Michigan; and Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, 700 W. North St in Bradley. Phones can be dropped at State representative Lisa Dugan's office, 150 N. Schuyler, Suite 205, Kankakee. Phones can also be left at The Herald, 500 Brown Blvd.,

Bourbonnais, during business hours. Donors will receive a coupon for a FREE sandwich from McDonald's and a gift certificate valid towards the purchase of cell phone/accessories from Barbeck Wireless.

More than 245 million U.S. cell phone users upgrade their cell phone every 18 months. 911 Cell Phone Bank, part of one of the nation's leading cell phone recyclers, estimates that nearly \$500 million worth of unused cell phones are collecting dust when they could be helping those in need. Surveys suggest that less than 10 percent of U.S. consumers dispose of their unused cell phones either by selling them or through other recycling methods. James Mosieur, Director, 911 Cell Phone Bank, said, "I am thrilled that McDonald's and Barbeck Wireless have generously taken on this important issue that will help improve the community."

Matt Beck, co-owner, Barbeck Wireless, said, "Together as community business leaders, we have developed a program where participation is simple and the benefits are plentiful. We believe this partnership will have a great impact in our community."

For more information about the Safe Cell program, contact Jackie Kauffold at Barbeck Wireless, 1-217-428-7000 or the Linmans at 1-815-932-8012.



Herald/Country Market photo by Toby Olszewski

The recycling of cell phones got a boost with a new program designed to encourage and make easier the donation and recycling of cell phones. The program will give many phones to local charities for distribution to victims of spousal abuse, senior citizens and others who cannot afford cell service but may need to contact 911. Among those at the kick-off Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007 were (back row, l. to r.) Doug Porter, chief executive officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities; Greg Braun, wireless operations director of the Bourbonnais Barbeck; (front) hosts for the evening and program supporters Josie and Amie Linman, Ronald McDonald and Chief Darrell Smith of the Kankakee County sheriff's department. Anyone needing a phone can contact the sheriff's department at 1-815-802-7100.