

SURPLUS FACE SHIELDS RESCUED FROM DISPOSAL

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In June 2021, the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency was contacted by M&K Dust Control about the possibility of disposing of thirty-nine pallets of brand-new face shields. The face shields were surplus product manufactured by U.S. Nameplate Co. out of Mount Vernon, Iowa. M&K manages inventory storage for U.S. Nameplate Co. Hoping to divert this valuable safety equipment from the landfill, the Agency referred the company to the local resource specialist for the Iowa Waste Exchange to explore options for using or recycling the shields.

The Iowa Waste Exchange connected the company with LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry, which is an aid organization based in Indiana that partners with other organizations around the world to ship and distribute valuable supplies where they are needed due to poverty and natural disasters. Through this partnership, the face shields were sent to the organization Food for the Poor based in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and the organization Caritas Arquidiocesana based in Mixco, Guatemala. Face shields are essential safety equipment for areas of the world severely impacted by earthquakes and hurricanes. A total of 78,000 face shields were sent to these organizations.



Left Photo: Boxes of surplus face shields



Right Photo: Manufacturer photo of the face shield

The Iowa Waste Exchange is currently working with M&K Dust Control and Linn County Public Health to locally distribute seventeen additional pallets of surplus face shields. A total of 34,000 face shields will be distributed to long-term care facilities, medical offices, detention centers, and other organizations in the Linn and Johnson County area. Due to the global pandemic, face shields continue to be invaluable safety equipment for organizations and businesses providing care and services to the community.

For more information about the Iowa Waste Exchange, visit the program website [here](#).