

Dear Sweetheart Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in supporting our cause. At the Sweetheart's Foundation, we are always grateful for new supporters who can help us make a significant difference in the lives of those in need.

Since our establishment on Valentine's Day in 2013, we have provided 498 bespoke wheelchairs to individuals across the country. The Sweetheart's Foundation (PBO 930077277, NPO 139-345, Level 2 B-BBEE procurement recognition) is a national 100% non-profit, community-driven, volunteer-based organization. All our incoming funds are allocated purely to giving the gift of movement. Our volunteers, sweetly named "Sweethearts," range from everyday volunteers to high-ranking individuals who juggle work, family, and helping others.

Inspired by the love of our country and fellow South Africans, The Sweethearts Foundation believes in leaving a more earth-friendly environment and that a wheelchair should be recognized as a basic human right. We ensure that anyone who is in need of a wheelchair should have one.

We collect significant amounts of bread tags and plastic bottle tops from various individuals, schools, and organizations from around the country. These collections are then recycled by local recycling companies, who in return pay The Sweethearts Foundation. We pool all collections from around the country together and allocate the funding to manufacture a wheelchair for the beneficiary currently at the top of our waiting list.

Our beneficiaries often require something more specialized, and thus the numbers of bottle tops required are often higher. A standard wheelchair is funded through 1750 kg of bottle tops or 350 kg of bread tags. However, we work on a case-to-case basis with a team of occupational therapists who recommend the best-suited wheelchair for each beneficiary. We use 450 kg or 50 kg as a benchmark to give people something to work towards, but it often takes more.

The big rule is that we only collect bottle tops with a #2 or #5 resin, which is the little recycling number on the bottle top. As a rule of thumb, we always tell Sweethearts that "if you can drink the product, you can keep the lid." This excludes household detergents, peanut butter, and mayonnaise lids, among others. Absolutely no metal tops, lids, or caps at all.

To find your closest collection point, please zoom into your area on this map:

<http://sweetheartsfoundation.org/your-help/#findcollectionpoints> Our collection points are run by wonderful Sweethearts volunteers. We would recommend you contact your closest collection point ahead of time to confirm the exact address and a suitable time and date of delivery. If you don't have a collection point nearby (or even if you do have a collection point nearby), you can become an Official Collection Point for The Sweethearts Foundation. By doing so, you'll be helping us collect and recycle precious #TopsandTags that can make a big difference in the lives of others. It's easy to sign up - just follow the link below, fill in the form, and let us know where you're located.

Link to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJEpmegyQRJt2hbWWbRUoTedfiZk8jrBU_qM-8Y3SAdKaw/viewform

Once we receive the plastic, our recycling partner melts it down and sells it to plastic manufacturers, who use it to create new plastic items like picture frames, seedling trays, and sometimes outdoor furniture.

We've recently initiated a monthly newsletter campaign, and we'd love to share it with you. You can find it here: [Newsletter Archive](#).



If you're active on social media, don't forget to like our Facebook Page and follow us on Instagram to stay updated with all things Sweethearts. We also have area-based Facebook groups where you can connect with like-minded people in your region. Here are the links:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sweetheartsfoundation/>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/the_sweethearts_foundation/
- Sweethearts Video: <https://www.youtube.com/@thesweetheartsfoundation4774>

And if you never want to miss out on future newsletters, you can sign up here: [Newsletter Subscription](#).

We've also prepared some fun posters and brochures that you can share with your community. You can access them here: [Marketing Materials](#).

If you need more information, please feel free to write back to us and let us know how we can assist.

Yours in Wheels,



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