

Center Court Gardens Recycling: The First Six Months



On the afternoon of September 15, 2009, members of the Rush Green Team gathered in a courtyard of the Center Court Garden Apartments to help launch recycling for this complex. Hundreds of bright blue plastic bins were delivered in cardboard boxes by Allied Waste. Team members carefully unpacked bins into neat stacks by a rented tent and then collapsed the cardboard boxes so that they could be recycled.



Once all bins were unpacked, Team members applied water-resistant stickers to each bin (to remind residents bins are the property of Rush University Medical Center and need to stay in the apartment when they eventually move out).

Tables were set up for the check-out line and for refreshments (sandwiches and desserts). Center Court Garden residents gathered over the next few hours to check-out their bins and to enjoy a free dinner!



Residents were given instructions that they can co-mingle their recyclables (paper, cardboard, metal, glass, and #1 and #2 plastics) in these bins. They are responsible to empty them into a separate recycling “toter,” located next to the trash dumpsters in various locations through the apartment complex.

A series of mail messages were also sent to apartment residents to clarify that this program replacing the blue bag system and to encourage their participation. Residents of units that did not pick up their recycling bin were also contacted to arrange for them to get their bins.



Posters were put up at Center Court Garden to remind all residents to use this new recycling system.

Recycling at Center Court Garden has been a frequent request of our residents. Green Team members were delighted to help make this happen. In the first five months of this program, we have seen a dramatic increase in recycling among Center Court residents. In the first five months, residents recycled 13.32 tons of materials. The chart below illustrates the increase in recycling since September and the corresponding decrease in trash.

Recycling at Center Court

