

Good News Department

Forgotten Gift Cards Can Keep Charities Alive

(NAPSA)—Your forgotten gift card may be just the medicine needed to keep a charity alive.

To show Americans how to donate their gift cards to charity, Mophe the Clown took a 1,000-mile unicycle journey around the U.S. “I read somewhere that \$90 billion in gift cards was sold last year and about 10 percent will never be used,” said Mophe.

It seems like a lot of money, but many people have more than one \$5-\$20 gift card sitting in a wallet, purse or junk drawer. Mophe asks everyone to send such gift cards to their favorite charity so the charities can continue to provide essential services in our communities and also the jobs for the people that work there. Here are some of Mophe’s ideas to get the cards to the charities:

- Return them in the next donation envelope you receive from a charity.
- Drop them in the kettle when you hear the bell ringing this holiday season.
- Send them to food banks, shelters, museums, the zoo, etc.
- Drop them in the basket at church.
- Do a gift card drive at school.
- Collect them at your company after the holidays and deliver a box of hope to a struggling charity.

So the big question is, how do the charities get the money out of the gift cards? “The charities can use some of the cards, like grocery cards at the food banks and clothing or bedding store cards at the shelters,” said Mophe. “Any charity can use office supply gift cards.”

He provided a few additional ideas, such as using the cards for



Mophe in Dallas, Texas, on his 1,000-mile unicycle journey to teach everyone to donate their forgotten gift cards to charities.

charity silent auctions, selling them to Web sites such as www.GiftCardBuyBack.com, or having a company such as www.GiftCardDonor.com manage and resell all the donated cards for the charity.

What’s next for Mophe now that the 1,000 miles are over?

“I’m hoping to finish a book about my incredible journey around America by the end of the year. I’ll continue to ride in some charity events and parades, and would like to visit patients at hospitals to cheer them up. You know what they say, ‘laughter is the best medicine.’ There are many possibilities after that—just as long as I can make a difference!”

You can search for Mophe on Facebook and Twitter to find out more about his journey and what he is doing next.