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UPCYCLE
CREATIVE REUSE CENTER

Impact Report

2023

Explore + Reuse + Create

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center is THE exchange place for creative materials, inspiration, and ideas in Alexandria, VA. We connect creativity and conservation by providing a resource center for reuse materials and a creative making space for the community. At UpCycle, we rethink the traditional notion of waste by collecting cast-offs from our community to serve as creative materials.

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SEASON'S TREATINGS IS BACK IN PERSON

UpCycle was so delighted to be able to bring back our Season's Treatings event to the community in December 2022 after cancelling during the pandemic. **From donations made by the community, UpCycle diverted hundreds of pounds of candy leftover from the Halloween holiday. The candy was reused to decorate gingerbread houses that our community members took home and enjoyed for the holidays.**

Due to the great success we had in bringing Season's Treatings back in 2022, we are excited to be holding the next event in December 2023 at The Garden at Building Momentum. We look forward to continuing to make this annual event available to our community.

This event is truly made possible by our community. From the staff and Board at UpCycle, thank you to all those that attended and shared your creativity in the holiday festivities with us.

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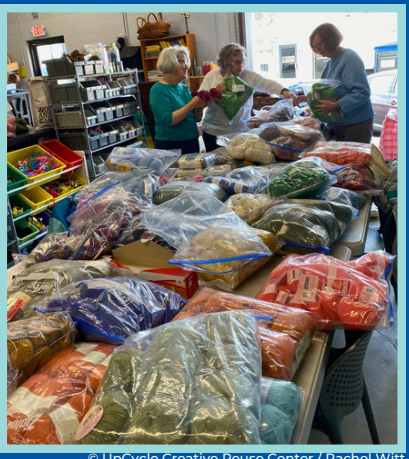
GROWTH & REDESIGN

In March 2022, we moved from our previous location at the Oswald Durant Center to a larger space on Eisenhower Avenue. This was able to happen thanks to the generosity of our supporters. **With our larger space to accommodate more donations, we went from diverting around 20,000 pounds annually to now diverting more than 30,000 pounds of materials from the waste stream and redistributing to people for creative expression.**

In April 2023, we redesigned the interior of our new space to allow for a more cohesive program area. We reorganized our space to allow us to accommodate even larger groups in youth and adult programming. UpCycle hosts a variety of programming fit for all ages. From weekly Tinker Time to school groups to adult art workshops, we are excited to offer a space for engaging in creative reuse.

30,000+

Pounds of materials diverted from the waste stream thanks to your donations



© UpCycle Creative Reuse Center / Rachel Witt

TINKER TIME SPONSORSHIP BY SHIRLINGTON PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

© UpCycle Creative Reuse Center / Shwetha Rai

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center and Shirlington Pediatric Dentistry formed a partnership to make our signature program, Tinker Time, free for our community. Dr. Shwetha Rai shares our emphasis on families, environmentalism, and creativity, and we are honored that she has chosen to support our local nonprofit and mission.

Dr. Rai and her family have been frequent participants in Tinker Time and other UpCycle programs over the years. Supporting UpCycle and enthusiastically sharing it with her patients at Shirlington Pediatric Dentistry is a natural extension of her family's passion for creativity. **"I know that I am using my small business to support a great local community program, but really I am just a mom who wants her kids to have a local place that fuels their creativity, and enriches their community. UpCycle is an Alexandria jewel and a part of my community that I am excited to support," says Dr. Rai.**

UpCycle is deeply grateful for Dr. Rai's support and sponsorship of Tinker Time to make this program free to our community and increasing accessibility. **Since relaunching Tinker Time in April 2023 with Dr. Rai's sponsorship, we have seen a more than 20% increase in attendance year-over-year.**

Nearly

1,000

kids in Alexandria provided with creative after school enrichment

© Jefferson-Houston PTA

More than

DOUBLED

our adult workshop offerings since last year

© UpCycle Creative Reuse Center

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

In April 2023, over $10,000 was raised during Spring2ACTion to support our mission, operations and core initiatives across the community. Your donations went toward supporting UpCycle's important work and was used where needed most. Your support helped to:

- Staff the shop four days a week and process donations.
- Keep our materials priced at the shop at least 50% of what it would cost in retail value.
- Design, plan and provide meaningful creative reuse programs to our community for all ages.
- Provide after school enrichment programs for nearly 1,000 Alexandria youth.

Acknowledgements

UPCYCLE'S OUTREACH & OPERATIONS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:

Sue & Graham Setliff

We thank you for your continued support.

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Scan to support UpCycle today and get involved.

SCAN ME

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center
5380-D Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-861-8705
upcyclecrc.org
info@upcyclecrc.org