

## Project Summary

Refurbiz works throughout Wiltshire and Swindon with a small team of dedicated staff and experienced and qualified engineers, to refurbish discarded washing machines, electric cookers and fridges, and provide them at low cost to those experiencing poverty and disadvantage in our community. Specifically:

- Refurbiz tackles poverty, and improves the well-being of disadvantaged people throughout Wiltshire and Swindon – we sell our goods at below cost price to about 1,800 families in need a year.
- Refurbiz trains, employs and provides volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged local people.
- Refurbiz reduces waste, increasing reuse and recycling – we are able to refurbish 70% of the units we collect.

Providing refurbished appliances to those in need results in significant financial savings that help alleviate poverty (as much as £40/family/week). But benefits are far greater than just financial. Those we provide low-cost kitchen appliances to have health benefits from clean clothes, fresh food, and home cooked meals, improved social cohesion, happier family life, and enhanced self-esteem, pride and well-being. Sometimes children are re-united with parents following Refurbiz' help in obtaining a safe, functioning kitchen.

Refurbiz also provides environmental benefits to the wider community by generating “second lives” for appliances that would otherwise be waste, and reducing environmental impact by saving the energy consumed and pollution produced in the manufacture and distribution of new appliances. Those we collect from also benefit from a convenient, environmentally and ethically sound way of disposing of large unwanted items.

For those families not owning such appliances, we calculate that the average savings made over a full year of use by our customers are significant. During 2008, the deliveries of 755 washing machines (saving £9.50 per week), 299 cookers (saving £25) and 322 re Fridgeration (saving £5) amounts to £845,390. Other appliances supplied include tumble dryers, vacuum cleaners and miscellaneous items such as microwave ovens.

Our thanks go to our many donors, supporters, volunteers and staff who together bring back smiles to the faces of those we can support. We aim to continue our work for many years to come, and do everything possible to meet the increasing demand for our services.

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