

Keep Tabs On Your Cans

By: Justin Ramb
Staff Writer

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company (RACO) kicked off a joint campaign urging the public to recycle aluminum--contributing their earnings toward the research, diagnosis and treatment of kidney and urinary tract diseases.

Officials of the two organizations said they hoped, in the process, to put to final rest a long-standing false rumor that pull tabs from beverage cans can be saved and redeemed for free time on a kidney dialysis machine.

"This has never been true," said William P. Hunter Jr., chairman of the National Kidney Foundation. "The truth is that no one is denied

dialysis time because of lack of money. Largely due to the efforts of the National Kidney Foundation, Medicare covers 80 percent of the cost of dialysis regardless of someone's age or financial status. The other 20 percent is usually paid by an individual's personal health insurance or state kidney programs."

The rumor has plagued both organizations for years and all efforts to track down its origin and stop it at the source have been unsuccessful.

Time after time, spirited citizens have brought large volumes of pull tabs to Reynolds centers thinking that they could be exchanged for dialysis time for sufferers of kidney disease, only to be told that no such program existed or was necessary.

"Keep tabs on your cans," Mr. Hunter and Mr. Charles Rayfield, vice-president of Reynolds Aluminum Recycling company stressed at a recent conference. They urged that the entire aluminum containers be turned in to a Reynolds recycling center as contributions to help in the fight against kidney disease. "The whole can will provide even more money for the National Kidney Foundation," Mr. Rayfield said. "And even beyond that, people can recycle a wide variety of other aluminum items. If it is aluminum, it can be recycled."

Groups and individuals turning in aluminum for this cause will be given an itemized receipt for record keeping and tax purposes, and Reynolds will

forward the donations on a regular basis to the Foundation through its local affiliates.

While their value varies, depending on world aluminum conditions and area and regional competition, used aluminum beverage cans are worth an average of more than 40 cents a pound at Reynolds recycling centers today; more than a penny a can.

In addition to all-aluminum beverage cans, Reynolds also recycles such other aluminum items as frozen food and dinner trays, foil, aluminum house siding, and lawn chairs. So please continue to save your aluminum but just keep your tabs on your cans.

(Editor's Note:

There is a recycling project under-way at M-AC, if you are interested please contact Shannon Hodgins)

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