



What is the A.D.E.?

The A.D.E. is a free online classified site that was created especially for listing and buying gently used assistive devices and equipment for people who have disabilities such as mobility, hearing, and sight.

Individuals who have assistive equipment they no longer need can offer it on the Assistive Device Exchange at a reasonable price or giveaway, and people who need this type of equipment can search and make arrangements to view, examine and acquire the item.

All users of the A.D.E are informed that the site is 'buyer beware,' and they should have a professional evaluate an item before they take ownership.

History

After receiving an overwhelming amount of calls from the public requesting assistance in purchasing needed devices, and having requests to donate gently used assistive devices to our charity, Independent Living Services of Simcoe County and Area teamed up with The United Way to find a solution to support the reuse of these devices.

What happens to equipment that is no longer needed by the individual who purchased it?

While financial assistance from both government and community to purchase new equipment is limited, perfectly good pieces of used equipment are stored in basements, garages, and community hubs such as churches and legions. These items often remain there for years, until they have outlived their usefulness. Few used furniture stores or groups will accept these used items.

In some cases equipment that has been used a handful of times ends up in landfills as families who inherit items are turned down at second-hand stores and are unsure of the legalities of rehoming items.

In July of 2012, the first version of the A.D.E. was launched on the Community Connections site and in September of 2017, with the generosity of The United Way, The Assistive Device Exchange launched its website www.assistivedeviceexchange.com.

The Assistive Device Exchange helps everyone: it helps de-clutter space, saves people money, allows access for people who could not otherwise afford these needed devices, and prevents devices from going into landfill.

Opportunity

After operating in Simcoe County for 6 years, this web site is now available for use across Ontario and Canada. The A.D.E. classifieds site now has a full-time eCommerce Manager driving traffic to the site and creating opportunities for low-cost advertising. Non-profits can also receive donations through the A.D.E. classifieds site. We will soon be launching an informational article component to the website. We encourage non-profits, health care professionals, and businesses to submit articles that are relevant and informative. These articles will be promoted through social media channels and will target specified audiences, demographics, and geographical locations.

For more information on the A.D.E., advertising opportunities, or article submissions, please email Amy Courser at admin@assistivedeviceexchange.ca or call 705-737-3263 x241, toll free 1-800-465-1133.

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