

Medical Equipment Loan Program

By Janet Roberts

Maybe its planned, or maybe it happens when you least expect it - you're in the hospital. You know that when you're discharged, you won't be able to get around the house and will need a walker or maybe even a wheelchair. Now what? Can you borrow a walker or wheelchair? Can you rent or buy the equipment? Oh yeah, the Internet!

Wait a minute, folks. You have choices here in Lincoln Hills with Neighbors InDeed. We can loan you medical equipment for up to a month, and you can ask for an extension, if necessary.

What do you do? If you know when its needed, call us at 916-223-2763 a couple of days before going into the hospital. Your equipment will be delivered to you before you go, and we'll make sure it's the right size. If you didn't know, a family member or friend can call and tell us what equipment you need and when you need it.

What can you borrow? Neighbors InDeed has wheelchairs, transport chairs, walkers, canes, and crutches – all in a variety of styles and sizes. We also have reachers and ramps to help you get a wheelchair in and out of your house. When we get your request, a Medical Equipment volunteer will contact you to help you determine which piece of equipment and size will best fit your needs. When you no longer need it, call, and we will pick it up.

How do we do this? Neighbors InDeed has a team of volunteers who deliver and pick up medical equipment. They delivered 457 pieces of equipment in 2019 – an average of 38 a month. Two Coordinators train and monitor the volunteers, as well as keep up with the paperwork required for an inventory of 192 pieces of equipment. The equipment is kept in a secured, well-organized storage unit in Lincoln. Residents have donated the majority of the equipment; however, we have purchased some pieces due to heavy usages, such as walkers and transport chairs.

So, it comes down to this – a small program, started as a dream in 2007, grew quickly into a very important component of Neighbors InDeed and a critical service for many of our residents. While we hope that you never have to use the service, it is there if you do.

For more details about our organization, check out our website at www.neighborsindeed.org.