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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NCRESA and RNC collaborating again**

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Newago County Regional Educational Service Agency (NCRESA) and Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) are once again collaborating to support Enterprise, the educator's glass crushing initiative.

Within a few weeks, recyclers will notice a trailer added to each RNC drop site dedicated strictly to the collection of glass by NC RESA to help support its Enterprise program. The trailers will be marked "glass only", and recyclers are invited to donate their glass to the endeavors of the local educational institution.

"The glass can certainly be recycled in our single stream bins along with other recyclables, but that little extra effort to keep it apart and drop it into NCRESA's glass trailers instead will help their program tremendously," said RNC Executive Director Linda Ritz White. "We are thrilled to be able to continue to collaborate with NCRESA on such an important program that not only helps students but adds to our local economy."

She pointed out that RNC and NCRESA wrote a joint grant for the glass crushing equipment that got the Enterprise program up and running several years ago.

NCRESA Executive Director of Special Education Lynette Witte-Suchner explains that Enterprise is a work-based learning environment for teens with special needs. Students prepare post-consumer glass by removing lids and ensuring the glass is reasonably clean before pulverizing in the crushing machine.

Pulverizing the glass produces a non-sharp product that is safe to handle and has uses in landscaping, sandblasting, construction of countertops, and more. Following pulverization, students use a special machine to sift the glass into four grades ranging from very fine to course. The glass is then bagged by students for sale.

“Through this program, students with disabilities learn workplace skills that serve them as they leave school and enter the workforce,” said Witte-Suchner.

NCRESA provides a spectrum of administrative and instructional services to school districts in Newaygo County including Fremont, Grant, Hesperia, Newaygo, White Cloud, and Big Jackson. Its services range from accounting and auditing of student enrollment numbers for each local district to the oversight of early childhood education, special education, and career-technical programs in the county. It also provides general education services for professional development, curriculum support, economic development and training, and technology services through its NCATS group.

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