



## Tri Valley's "Green Team" gives free shopping bags

CAMBRIDGE - The "Green Team" at Tri Valley Health System (TVHS) has spent the past six months working to reduce garbage and increase efficiency. A few of the programs they have implemented include a system-wide recycling initiative for plastic bottles, aluminum cans, magazines, newspapers, and boxes. The team has also begun turning used office paper into smaller note pads as long as there is no protected health information printed on the sheets.

Now, the "Green Team" is taking their mission of waste reduction to the streets of the communities they serve by handing out free reusable shopping bags. Individuals are encouraged to stop by the TVHS Downtown Center in Cambridge, Tri Valley Hospital or any one of the three Rural Health Clinics in Arapahoe, Cambridge, or Indianola to pick up a Nebraska red shopping

bag today.

"Each of these individual bags has the potential to eliminate 1,000 plastic bags during its lifetime," said committee chairperson Joyce Deaver. "Plus, many stores provide a small credit for utilizing reusable bags in place of their plastic bags so it also saves a bit of money over the course of year."

In addition to recycling and reusing, Tri Valley Health System is also making its facilities more energy efficient. The new hospital currently being built will comply with the latest energy codes. The new hospital will have more insulation than buildings built even a few years ago. This will decrease the amount of energy needed to maintain the optimum climate. Plant Operations and Environmental Services departments are also continuously striving to be more environmentally friendly with the products

they use and by changing their everyday routines to encourage and maintain the recycling initiative. For more information about the building project and to view their progress visit the Hard Hat News section at [www.trivalleyhealth.com](http://www.trivalleyhealth.com).