

Caregivers' 'closet' offers help

BY JULIE HUSS
STAFF WRITER

DERRY — Community Caregivers of Greater Derry offers loans of medical equipment to anyone in the area who needs some help.

The nonprofit organization provides medical equipment to those who are disabled, or anyone who might need a cane or wheelchair for an extended period of time following an injury or hospital stay.

The group's "loaner closet" is full of wheelchairs, crutches, canes and other health-related items waiting for anyone who might want to borrow them.

According to Caregivers co-director Allyson Welsh, the "closet" is a second-floor room in the Masonic Lodge on East Broadway in Derry that Caregivers rents along with its regular office space in the building.

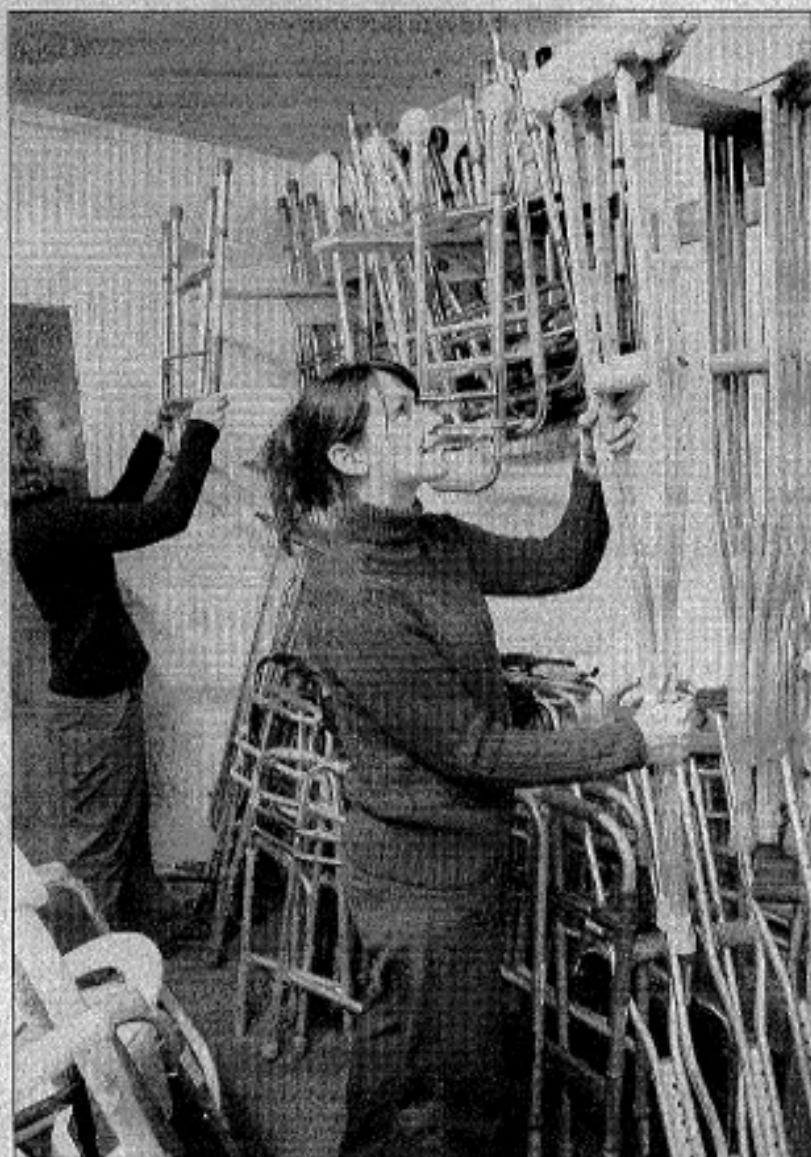
About three years ago, Caregivers staff decided that loaning medical equipment would fill a need in the communities the group serves.

The room's supply of equipment is kept full through donations by families, or by people who no longer need the equipment, Welsh said. She added families sometimes donate the equipment to Caregivers when someone dies.

Welsh said people can contact Caregivers to borrow the equipment without charge.

Currently, she said the agency has "a ton" of equipment available. "Wheelchairs, walkers, anything you can imagine, really," Welsh said.

Welsh said wheelchairs and extended bath seats are most in demand and in the least supply, and donations are always welcome.



CHERYL SENTER/Staff photo

Community Caregivers' Cindy Cadieux, left, and Allyson Welsh arrange some of the walkers and other medical equipment available for people to borrow for as long as needed. The office is located in the Masonic Lodge Building on East Broadway in Derry.

tation and other services.

The group began with five volunteers and eight clients and has grown to now help more than 200 people with a core of 150 volunteers. The group helps people in Derry, Londonderry, Windham, Chester, Sandown, Hampstead and other area

towns.

To learn more about Community Caregivers or its loaner closet/medical equipment service, contact the group at 432-0877. The Caregivers office is at 58 E. Broadway in the Masonic Lodge in Derry. Visit online at www.comcaregivers.org.

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