

THE REALLY, REALLY FREE MARKET...

What is it?

The Really, Really Free Market is exactly what the title states—a market in which anyone can provide items or services completely free of charge. It is a place where anyone can bring anything they don't want and would like to give away for others to make use of. Participants bring anything from clothes or CD's to furniture or bicycles. Some people prefer to provide services or talents rather than items, such as haircuts or entertainment. It is a great way to get the community together to share gifts and have a good time. As they say—"one persons trash is another's treasure."



Origin

The first known Really, Really Free Market took place simultaneously in Miami, Florida, and Raleigh, North Carolina during the anti-globalization protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas in 2004. The idea was to give people an example of an alternative form of trade that was not based on monetary gain that participants could take home with them. The idea spread quickly, and currently there are active Really, Really Free Markets in such cities as: Wilmington, Raleigh, Greensboro and Greenville NC; New York City; San Francisco; Reno, Nevada; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Austin, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Belfast, New York; Tallahassee, Florida; Washington, DC; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Richmond, Virginia; Yellow Springs, Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio; Athens, Georgia; Indianapolis, Indiana... and now... **Champaign-Urbana!**



Why the Really, Really Free Market?

RRFM is important to have in a consumer society in which shopping is the common denominator of all social activity. The idea is based on an alternate gift economy—where there are no monetary transactions, and everyone is there to support the community. We all have unnecessary or unused items we can get rid of. Instead of having a yard sale and selling them, why not release them to the disposal of the community? Although, giving and receiving gifts is not the only purpose of having a Really, Really Free Market. It is a means of fighting materialism and promoting gift economics. It is also a way to get the community together to share common ideals and not worry about materialistic pleasures.

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Just a few of the things shared at 'Free Markets:

- televisions, stereos, and computers
- furniture, futons, beds, and exercise machines
- CDs, DVDs, videotapes, and cassettes
- clothing from lingerie to ski boots
- suitcases, bookshelves, and ironing boards
- homemade bird houses
- firewood
- seeds and vegetable starts
- shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer, and other toiletries
- children's toys, baby clothes, and diapers
- toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and homemade soap
- hot soup, tostadas, salad, popcorn, cornbread, sweet tea, coffee, and other lunch items
- banana bread, a myriad of cakes and pies, and vegan chocolate chip cookies by the thousand
- massive quantities of groceries
- thousands upon thousands of pamphlets, 'zines, and papers
- books and magazines
- tarot card reading and fortune telling
- acupuncture, reiki, massage, and haircuts
- bicycles, and a bicycle repair station operated by bicycle mechanics
- automobile repair advice from a professional automechanic
- screenprinted shirts and patches, including some celebrating our 'Free Market
- screenprinting, poi spinning, and self defense workshops
- cello, theremin, and mouth harp lessons
- performances from drummers, folk singers, classical musicians, a marching band, a drum corps, and dozens of puppet troupes
- piñatas full of vegan candy
- games from chess to ultimate frisbee
- an official from the free public transit system came to give out bus schedules and coin pouches with the transit system logo on them
- sheets and paint to make banners for an upcoming protest

