



Star Hansen's Simplified Spaces Newsletter

"Donation Solutions"

Dear Star,

Happy New Year! Congratulations to everyone who is taking an interest in themselves by getting organized, or even just expanding their existing knowledge of organization. In 2008 I would love to help you break away from the crutches of clutter and free you to live your life!

This month, I'm going to help you start to get rid of the excess "stuff" that is holding you back by giving you information about donation options. With so many donation options out there, it's hard to know who you are giving to and what your donations will do. Here are a few tips on donating:

1-It's important to give to causes that you feel passionate about. This will help you ease some of the stress that goes along with parting with your excess belongings. For this reason, I've listed the background on several different donation possibilities.

2-When you donate items, make sure to ask for a receipt and keep track of what you are donating. Your used furniture, clothing, and other household items will be considered a tax-deductible contribution. See the Salvation Army Valuation Guide link below to have a great reference for the value of items you donate.

3-Always get in touch with the donation center you are planning to use. See if they are able to take your donation. All locations have different needs and limitations. Also, most donation centers offer a pick up option, so you don't have to lift a finger in the removal process.

Below are some different donation options, see what feels good to you and donate away!

(**all information collected from organization's official websites)

Goodwill

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Goodwill Industries International is one of the world's largest nonprofit providers of education, training, and career services for people with disadvantages, such as welfare dependency, homelessness, and lack of education or work experience, as well as those with physical, mental and emotional disabilities.

What your donations do: The clothing and household goods you donate are sold in over 2,100 Goodwill retail stores and on our Internet auction site, www.shopgoodwill.com. The revenues fund job training and other services to prepare people for job success.

Accepted Donations: Furniture, appliances (large & small), books, clothing, electronics...basically almost anything, except used mattresses and box springs.

Phone Number: (800) 741-0186

Website: www.goodwill.org

Salvation Army



The Salvation Army is a Christian charity and church that is internationally organized like a military service. Its founders William and Catherine Booth sought to bring Christian salvation to the poor, destitute and hungry by meeting both their physical and spiritual needs.

What your donations do: The sale of each donated item through The Salvation Army's thrift stores goes to support their addiction recovery programs known as Adult Rehabilitation Centers.

Accepted Donations: Furniture, clothing and other household items.

Phone Number: (800) SAL-ARMY (725-2769) or (800) SA-TRUCK (728-7825)

Websites: www.salvationarmyusa.org (home page)
www.satruck.com (to schedule a pick up)
www.satruck.com/ValueGuide.aspx (gives you the value of items you donate)

Vietnam Veterans of America



Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. (VVA) is a national non-profit corporation founded in 1978 in the United States that promotes the interests of United States military veterans of the Vietnam War era. It is funded without any contribution from any branch of government. VVA is the only such organization chartered by the United States Congress and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam veterans and their families.

What your donations do: VVA sells your donated household goods to private companies by annual bid. Those funds provide over half of their annual needs to support local, state and national service programs (e.g. homeless veterans, agent orange related health programs, improved hospital care for veterans with disabilities).

Accepted Donations: clothing, shoes, small furniture, bedding, housewares, draperies, toys, games, small appliances, tools and books.

Phone Number: (800) 775-VETS (8387)

Website: www.scheduleapickup.com
www.vva.org

Homeless Shelters

Homeless shelters are temporary residences for homeless people. Usually located in urban neighborhoods, they are similar to emergency shelters. The primary difference is that homeless shelters are usually open to anyone, without regard to the reason for need. Homeless shelters are usually operated by a non-profit agency, a municipal agency, or associated with a church. Many get at least part of their funding from local government entities.

What your donations do: Provide necessary supplies to support and care for the homeless population. Some locations use donations to help individuals and families get set up in new housing situations.

Accepted Donations: Food, clothing, bedding, linens, first aid supplies, and toiletries.

Website: www.artistshelpingchildren.org/shelters.html
(This site gives locations and contact information for homeless shelters, by state, across the US)

Happy donating! I hope this helps you all in your journey to simplicity. As always, feel free to reach out with questions or updates on how you're doing.

Simply Yours,

Star Hansen
and
the Simplified Spaces Team

Simplified Spaces, Inc.

Upcoming Events



What: The National Association of Professional Organizers's 3rd Annual Organizing Awards, hosted by Sherri Shepherd, co-host of ABC-TV's "The View".

When: February 1, 2008 at 7 pm.

Where: Luxe Hotel Sunrise Boulevard
11461 W Sunset Blvd.
Bel-Air, CA 90049

Cost: \$150/person

For more information, go to www.napola.org

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