

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle A list to help even the most challenging junk find a new home.

By Theresa Sullivan Barger *Special to the Hartford Courant Sunday March 7, 2010*

With the help of professional organizer Linda Pulford of Farmington Valley Organizing and the staff at many of the charities listed below, we compiled a list to help even the most challenging junk find a new home. But remember: If you donate something unusable because it's moldy or stained, the charity is stuck with the expense of disposal.

Look below for information on donating items in these categories and more:

Arts & Crafts Supplies Baby Supplies Bicycles Books Cellphones Clothing Computers, Electronics, Appliances Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Hearing Aids	Furniture Furs Holiday Items, Decorations Small Household Items Linens Mattresses Pet Needs Plastic Food Containers Printer Cartridges	School, Office Supplies Sporting Goods, Fitness Equipment Tools, Building Materials Toys, Puzzles, Games Wheelchairs And Medical Equipment Still Looking? More Options
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Arts & Crafts Supplies

- Susan B. Anthony Project (860-489-3798) is a shelter for battered women in **Torrington**. Call to make arrangements to donate.

- Family Services of Greater **Waterbury**, at 34 Murray St., Waterbury (203-756-8317), runs a center for young children and a safe house for children ages 3 to 12 and their siblings. It also provides individual, couples and family counseling.

Baby Supplies

- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, 723 Main St., Manchester, 860-645-4141, www.wvlm.org. Call before dropping things off. No used car seats.

- Gifts of Love, in Old Avon Village, 63 E. Main St., Avon (860-676-2323, www.giftsoflovet.org) accepts high chairs, strollers, newer cribs, baby items.

Bicycles

- Catholic Charities, Migration and Refugees Services, 125 Market St., Hartford (860-548-0059, Ext 12) offers to do pickups.

- The Hartford Catholic Worker, a non-government, non-church-supported agency, works with the

poor in North Hartford. You can drop off working bicycles at 18 Clark St., Hartford.

- Pedals for Progress (www.p4p.org) takes donated bikes and ships them to impoverished countries, working with non-governmental organizations to teach people how to repair bikes. The bikes are used for free transportation and as a self-sustaining repair business. To donate a bike, ship at your expense and include a \$10 donation to Pedals for Progress, 86 E. Main St., **High Bridge**, N.J. 08829; you'll be sent a tax-deductible receipt for the value of your bike and your cash donation.

Books

- Public libraries. Most public libraries hold annual used-book sales that raise money for the library. Call your local library to check for guidelines. Some libraries accept donations year-round; others have space limitations that necessitate finite collection periods.

CDs, DVDs, Video Games, Books On Tape

- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411) is run by the Junior League of Hartford (www.jlhartford.org).

- Goodwill Industries (www.goodwill.org) has locations throughout Connecticut.

- Salvation Army (860-527-8106) offers pickups by appointment. Ask for dispatch.

- Nutmeg Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Springfield (888-413-2227) offers pickups by appointment.

Cellphones

- At Flipswap.com, you can recycle your old model and get credit at a store that sells cellphones, or get cash or make a donation to your favorite charity. The trade-in service is free for consumers and retailers with excess phones. Flipswap pays for shipping and handling.

- YouRenew.com, a Connecticut company started by two Yale students, buys unwanted electronics, including cellphones. They resell those that work and recycle those that don't; the company also makes a donation to CarbonFund.org or AmericanForests.org to offset the carbon footprint of mailing.

- CharityGuide.org (www.charityguide.org/volunteer/fifteen/cell-phone-recycling.htm) offers ideas on where to donate a host of items.

Clothing

- My Sister's Place, Hartford (860-895-6629) seeks women's, kids' and baby clothing. Storage space is limited, so call first to see what's needed.

- Goodwill Industries (www.goodwill.org) has sites throughout Connecticut.

- Salvation Army (860-527-8106) offers pickups by appointment. Ask for dispatch.

- Nutmeg Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Springfield (888-413-2227) offers pickups by appointment.

- Gifts of Love, Old Avon Village, 63 E. Main St., Avon (860-676-2323, www.giftsoflovect.org).
- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411, www.jlhartford.org) accepts current fashions for clothing and accessories; tuxedos, evening wear, jewelry and special occasion items; outerwear, boots, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.
- Safe Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (860-653-2811) accepts flannel shirts and old white T-shirts to use for animal beds.
- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions is at 723 Main St., Manchester. (860-645-4141). Call before dropping off.
- Family Services of Greater Waterbury, 34 Murray St., Waterbury (203-756-8317) accepts children's clothing in all sizes and business-casual women's clothing.

Computers, Electronics, Appliances

- YouRenew.com. The state-based organization accepts mp3 players, digital cameras, calculators, laptops, gaming devices, external drives, games and DVDs. Request a postage-paid envelope to send your electronic device. You'll be paid within five days; if the item is worthless, YouRenew.com will recycle it.
- Gazelle.com. Similar to YouRenew.com, Gazelle.com will pay for unwanted electronics mailed to them in a postage-paid box. If there's no value, they'll recycle. (This includes camcorders, calculators, camera lenses, projectors, home audio, PDAs, satellite radios, EBook readers and such.)
- New England Appliance, 220 Albany Turnpike (Route 44), Canton Village, Canton (860-693-6337) accepts refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves, cooktops and most other electric appliances. It also accepts computers, CPUs, monitors, keyboards and all computer components, computer games, clocks, stereo equipment, cameras, telephones, TVs, VCRs, CD players. Most recycling is free; a small fee is charged for CRT mercury removal. Call for hours; drop-offs are usually accepted two Saturdays per month.
- Thrifty Fish thrift shop, 343 S. Main St., Torrington (860-482-7300) accepts items in working order that can be resold or given to people starting up a household.
- Youth Challenge Mission for Women, 32 Atwood St., Hartford (860-527-2000) helps women recovering from addiction return to their homes and jobs. It needs working computers.
- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411, www.jlhartford.org) accepts laptops with and without hard-drives.

Eyeglasses, Sunglasses, Hearing Aids

- The Lions Club accepts unwanted eyeglasses, sunglasses and used hearing aids. Look for Lions Club drop-boxes near your local post office, or donate at any Goodwill location or at LensCrafters stores.

Furniture

- Salvation Army (860-527-8106) offers pickups by appointment. Ask for dispatch.
- Thrifty Fish thrift shop, 343 S. Main St., Torrington (860-482-7300).
- Gifts of Love in Avon needs newer cribs and essential furniture pieces small enough to fit in an apartment. Drop off at Old Avon Village, 63 E. Main St, Avon (860-676-2323).
- Catholic Charities, Migration and Refugees Services, 125 Market St., Hartford (860-548-0059, Ext. 12) can arrange for pickups.
- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411, www.jlhartford.org) accepts small pieces; please call first.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Hartsprings Foundation (888-413-2227) offers pickups by appointment.
- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, 723 Main St., Manchester (860-645-4141) accepts furniture and small appliances. Call first.

Furs

- Humane Society of America (humanesociety.org) gives unwanted furs to wildlife shelters for use in bedding for animals.
- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411, www.jlhartford.org).

Holiday Items, Decorations

- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411, www.jlhartford.org).

Small Household Items

- Thrifty Fish thrift shop, 343 S. Main St., Torrington (860-482-7300). Knickknacks accepted.
- Gifts Of Love in Avon (www.giftsoflovect.org) accepts dishes and glasses (without cracks or chips); pots and pans; flatware; cooking utensils; small appliances; baby items such as strollers, car seats, high chairs and newer cribs.
- My Sister's Place, 102 Pliny St., Hartford (860-522-0416, www.mysistersplacect.org) uses donated items to help women who leave the shelter set up in a new home.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Hartsprings Foundation (888-413-2227) can arrange for pickups.
- Catholic Charities, Migration and Refugees Services, 125 Market St., Hartford (860-548-0059, Ext. 12) helps set up refugees in homes. Call to arrange pickups.
- Youth Challenge Mission for Women, 32 Atwood St., Hartford (860-527-2000) helps women recovering from addiction return to their homes and jobs. It needs patio furniture, twin size sheets and comforters.

- South Park Inn, 75 Main St., Hartford (860-724-0071) accepts unopened laundry detergent, first-aid supplies, new personal-hygiene supplies.

Linens

- Salvation Army (860-527-8106) offers pickups by appointment. Ask for dispatch.
- My Sister's Place, Hartford (860-895-6629) accepts gently used blankets, twin bedding, curtains.
- Thrifty Fish thrift shop, 343 S. Main St., Torrington (860-482-7300).
- The Clothes Horse Thrift Store, 175 Park Road, West Hartford (860-233-1411).
- Gifts of Love in Avon (www.giftsoflovect.org) needs linens to help families setting up a household.
- Catholic Charities, Migration and Refugees Services, 125 Market St., Hartford (860-548-0059, Ext. 12) offers pickups. It help set up refugees in homes.
- Safe Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Granby (860-653-2811) accepts well-worn sheets, including flannel sheets, towels, washcloths, blankets, quilts, fleece and pillowcases.
- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, Manchester (860-645-4141). Call before dropping off.
- Youth Challenge Mission for Women, 32 Atwood St., Hartford (860-527-2000).
- South Park Inn, 75 Main St., Hartford (860-724-0071) accepts new or lightly used twin sheets and bath towels.

Mattresses

- Salvation Army (860-527-8106) can arrange pickups.

Pet Needs

- Connecticut Humane Society (www.cthumane.org) accepts new or gently used cat carriers and dog crates, rabbit and small-animal cages, and newspapers.

Plastic Food Containers

- Safe Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Granby (860-653-2811).

Printer Cartridges

- Staples, **Office Depot** stores have drop-off areas.
- Lions Club recycles used printer cartridges (www.donateglasses.net/cartridges.html).

School, Office Supplies

- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, 723 Main St., Manchester (860-645-4141). Call before dropping off.
- South Park Inn, 75 Main St., Hartford (860-724-0071). Accepts new office supplies, copy paper, pens, file folders.

Sporting Goods, Fitness Equipment

- Play It Again Sports, 15 S. Main St., West Hartford (860-523-4692, www.playitagainsports.com) buys and trades used sports and fitness equipment. (Search the website for locations in Brookfield and [Southington](#).)
- SportsGift.org, 32565 Golden Lantern, Suite B, #190, [Dana Point](#), CA 92629 (949-388-2359, www.sportsgift.org) gives used sporting equipment to children in impoverished areas throughout the world. Send items at your expense to Sports Gift, including balls, cleats, shin guards, gloves, skates, etc. They can be well worn but should still be in usable condition.

Tools, Building Materials

- Rebuilding Together is a national nonprofit with offices in Hartford, [New Britain](#), Manchester, [Litchfield County](#), Stamford/Greenwich and Springfield. For the nearest office, go to www.rebuildingtogether.org, and click on the map. Partial needs list: hand tools (hammers, saws, caulking gun, scrapers, putty knives, utility knives, pipe wrenches), yard tools (rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, post hole diggers), step ladders, plastic drop clothes, painters' tape, large scrub brushes, rags, building materials. Call for specific needs.

Toys, Puzzles, Games

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Hartsprings Foundation (888-413-2227). Pickups by appointment.
- Family Services of Greater Waterbury, 34 Murray St., Waterbury (203-756-8317) runs a center for young children and provides counseling.

Wheelchairs And Medical Equipment

- JoniAndFriends.org accepts folding aluminum walkers, aluminum crutches, folding wheelchairs (not electric) and metal canes, which are sent to the needy in 103 impoverished countries. The Connecticut contact is Joy Eusebio, [Woodbury](#) (203-263-0270, joyatwheels@aol.com). The need for walkers and crutches is high in [Haiti](#), where thousands of people required amputations from injuries in the January [earthquake](#).
- The Bible Church of Waterbury, 240 Dwight St., Waterbury, 06704-1819 (203-753-7942) is accepting metal crutches and canes to send to Haiti.
- World-Wide Lighthouse Missions, Manchester (860-645-4141) accepts medical supplies and equipment. Call in advance.
- [Suffield](#) Emergency Aid Association accepts canes, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, commodes and transport chairs that are clean and in great working order. Medical equipment is loaned to Suffield residents.

Still Looking? More Options

- Freecycle.org: Sign up for the freecycle.org chapters near you, and post items you want to give away. People come to your house to pick them up, so use caution.
- [Craigslist.org](#): Post a free ad online to sell your unwanted stuff.
- CharityGuide.org has a list of where to donate a variety of items, from eyeglasses to computers.

- The Junk Shop, 181 Albany Turnpike (Route 44), Canton (860-693-6039) buys used household items and furniture. It will arrange for pickups if you have a lot to sell, or you can bring in items.

- 800-GOT-JUNK? If you want it gone but want it recycled as much as possible, call, and for a fee, they'll take everything away, recycling and selling what they can