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Summer Organizing Tips from the Experts
Goodwill and professional organizers make summer clean-up with kids easy

PHOENIX, Ariz. (June 26, 2006) – Spring cleaning is so last season. Summer has arrived, and undoubtedly, the clutter has resurfaced. Goodwill retailers stores across the Valley want to help customers take a load off this summer. With many schools in the Valley on summer recess, now is a great time to include the kids in summer organizing around the house. Goodwill of Central Arizona and the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) - Arizona Chapter, share tips on summer clean-up with the kids, while helping the community by donating unwanted items to Goodwill.

The idea behind Goodwill’s summer cleaning is two fold. Donating unused items to Goodwill is the best way to organize and make room for new purchases. And when the clutter is cleared, customers can also feel good about giving to the community. “Donating to Goodwill is very beneficial throughout Central Phoenix,” said Keith Mason, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries of Central Arizona. “One-hundred percent of proceeds from purchases made in stores across the Valley go right back to the community by supporting education, career services and other significant programs.”

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Clearing unwanted items and creating a donation pile is key to staying organized.

Celebrating 20 years as experts in organization, NAPO's local chapter member, Carolyn Woods of Tidy Tikes Household Organizing offers tips for summer clean-up with the kids:

- As you and the kids sort through unwanted items, keep donation bags handy that can be easily taken to Goodwill to help create additional space.
- Make a shopping list of items to replace or upgrade.
- Invite kids to invite a friend to help. Friends can help decide objectively between what should be kept or donated.
- Give kids specific assignments when organizing such as organizing a “junk drawer,” rearranging the pantry, folding sweaters and sorting clothes into piles to donate to Goodwill.

While it does take time and patience when teaching kids how to organize, it is a great basic skill that is beneficial for years to come. “I have worked on organizational training with my kids for years,” said Jody Owen, Charter Member and Vice President of the National Association of Professional Organizers-Arizona Chapter. “They are now at the point where they can purge clothing and toys themselves while realizing the importance of donating to an organization like Goodwill, at the same time.”

Valley residents can donate unwanted items at any of the 29 retail stores in Central Arizona. All stores accept donations and many have convenient drive-up donation service. It also pays to donate, Goodwill provides donors with a receipt to file with 2006 tax materials.

Store hours for the 29 Goodwill locations across the Valley are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Store locations can be found at www.goodwillaz.org.

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Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest non-profit agencies in Arizona and is a nationally recognized leader in empowering people to achieve their highest level of personal and economic independence. Their philosophy is simple: provide an environment for people to believe they can succeed, achieve goals, develop skills and change the barriers they face every day. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona visit www.goodwillaz.org.

For more information on The National Association of Professional Organizers visit www.napo.org or www.napo-az.com

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