

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Goodwill is just one of several thrift stores in the Valley that are happy to take reusable clothes, furniture and housewares.

GOODWILL

## IN with the NEW, OUT with the OLD Don't trash your old stuff, donate or sell it

By Sue Doerfler | THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

With gift boxes now piled high in the recycling bin, it's time to find space for the new clothes discovered under the Christmas tree.

And that coffeemaker seems pitiful sitting next to the new espresso machine.

There's no need to dispose of old items — sell or donate them.

"It's certainly better to recycle things than to throw them out," said Adele Meyer, executive director of NARTS, the Association of Resale Professionals, based in Michigan. "There are a lot of things that ... could be useful to someone else."

The end of the year always means a huge influx of donations, said Chandra Stewart, marketing director for Goodwill of Arizona. People donate older belongings not only because of holiday gifts they received, but because they want a tax write-off, she said.

Selling your old belongings can be just as beneficial.

"It's kind of like found money," said Ann Siner, CEO and founder of My Sister's Closet, which has 10 Valley stores.

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The upscale consignment store My Sister's Closet has 10 locations in the Valley.

## Resources

- » Central Arizona Shelter Services, 230 S. 12th Ave., Phoenix. 602-256-6945, [cass-az.org](http://cass-az.org).
- » Goodwill of Arizona, [goodwillaz.org](http://goodwillaz.org).
- » Kitchen Switchin', 7118 N. Seventh St., Phoenix. 602-277-2577, [kitchenswitchin.com](http://kitchenswitchin.com).
- » My Sister's Closet, [mysisterscloset.com](http://mysisterscloset.com).
- » Park 'N Swap, 40th and Washington streets, Phoenix. [americanparknswap.com](http://americanparknswap.com).
- » Pet shelters: Find a list of shelters under "Adoption Partners" at [pacc911.org](http://pacc911.org).
- » Salvation Army, [tsasw.org](http://tsasw.org).
- » Society of St. Vincent de Paul, [stvincentde paul.net](http://stvincentde paul.net).
- » West Valley Child Crisis Center, 8631 W. Union Hills Drive, Peoria. 623-848-8863, [wvccc.org](http://wvccc.org).
- » The Association of Resale Professionals has a list of local-member consignment stores. Click on "Resale shopping" at [narts.org](http://narts.org).

# Don't pitch old stuff, someone else wants it

## OLD STUFF *Continued from D1*

Here are several suggestions for disposing of your unneeded belongings.

### Sell or swap

- » Bring items to resale and consignment stores. "The better the items look, the more money they will bring," Siner said. Wash and press clothes to make them look their best. Vacuum upholstered furniture; dust and polish wood and metal furnishings. Clean knickknacks and accessories.
- » Too many pots and pans? Cook up a few extra dollars by taking them to Kitchen Switchin', a recently opened consignment boutique in Phoenix dedicated to all kinds of food-preparation accessories.
- » Have a garage sale. Consider asking your neighbors if they want to participate; a bigger sale should draw more shoppers.
- » Rent a booth at a swap meet, such as Park 'N Swap in Phoenix. Make sure you have enough items to justify the booth rental, or split

the cost with friends and family.

- » Hold a clothing exchange with friends. Trade clothes and accessories; other people's items will be "new to you." Serve snacks and wine, making the event a girls' night out.

### Donate

- » Donate to local thrift shops, such as Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army.
- » Give items to a homeless shelter, such as Central Arizona Shelter Services in Phoenix, which has an online wish list that includes blankets, sheets and clothes.
- » Donate to crisis centers. One such center, the West Valley Child Crisis Center in Peoria, has an online "giving tree," which lists needed items, such as games and toys for kids 8 and older and blankets for babies.
- » If Santa was kind to your pets, consider donating gently used toys, leashes, blankets and more to Valley rescue and humane associations. Nearly all will be happy to take items ranging from scratching posts to dog beds as long as they are in good condition.