

Decluttering Resources Handout from Chris Palmer

September 14, 2023

I recommend the following **four books, all on decluttering**:

1. *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter* by Margareta Magnusson
2. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* by Marie Kondo
3. *Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World* by Cal Newport
4. *The Minimalist Home: A Room-by-Room Guide to a Decluttered, Refocused Life* by Joshua Becker

Clothing Donation Places: GoGreenDrop.com; AWiderCircle.org; and ThredUp.com.

Linen Donation Place: National Center for Children and Families.

Books To Donate: BookBlissOnLine.com.

Furniture to Donate: Goodwill; and AWiderCircle.org.

Margaret Warker (Little Falls Village) recommends the following two charities that will pick up donations from your home:

- **Greendrops** works with select charities: gogreendrop.com
- **Salvation Army:** <https://satruck.org/donate/choose>

Rosalind Kipping has two great ideas:

Wider Circle: When people are downsizing or de-cluttering, this organization may welcome some things needed to furnish homes for immigrant families, disabled vets, etc. They will pick up larger items such as box springs and mattresses, dressers, chests, dining table and chairs, etc. Google “Wider Circle” and click on donations.

Interfaith Works: Interfaith Works accepts a wide range of things. Everything is FREE to those who go there to get what they need. I like this because the only people who are allowed to go there are pre-qualified by the County. I give lots of lightly used clothing and linens to this organization. Besides clothing they accept small household items, bed and table linens, etc. I go to their warehouse on Twinbrook in Rockville to make donations.

Professional organizers:

- Potomac Concierge. <https://potomacconcierge.com/>
- Clutter Busters: <https://clutterbusters.com/about-us-2/>

Elyse Jacob recommends the following four places to donate things:

Wider Circle: for household items including furniture, and work-related clothing. This is a wonderful non-profit organization started years ago by an AU graduate who recently retired after decades of building the program. The program serves low-income individuals and families providing household items and job training skills. All clients are pre-screened by social service agencies and then make an appointment to come to the warehouse to pick out what they need. Things are set up like a store. Anything that is donated is checked that it is working and in good condition before being placed out for clients. Pre-Covid I used to volunteer there organizing and setting up houseware items that were donated. Donations can be dropped off Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-5 and Sun. 12-5 at 159 Brookville Road, Silver Spring, MD. They will pick up larger items but you need to make a reservation well in advance. Phone: [301-608-3504](tel:301-608-3504)

I- Memories: for digitizing photos, slides and old movies (even super 8 and 16mm). <https://www.imemories.com/> They send you a box and you put your photos, slides, movies... and send them off to them. They then digitize all for you and send your originals back to you. We used them for all our slides, super 8, 16mm, and VHS movies. They often have discounts so look on the web.

New For You: For donated household items, jewelry, toys, clothing etc. <https://new4youthrift.org/donations>. This is a newer thrift shop in downtown Bethesda. All proceeds from donations go to local charities. "New4You Thrift Boutique was established to fill the void created by the 2020 closure of the Montgomery County Thrift Shop after more than 70 years of community service. Many volunteers at New4You are MCTS veterans, dedicated to helping the community and raising funds for local charities." You can drop off items anytime the store is open. Wed-Saturday 11-4, Sunday 12-4. 4909 Cordell Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

Rugby Bethesda Police Station: for discarding any old medicines, pet medicines included. At the entrance to the police station there is a drop box. You do not need to speak to anyone, just drop the old med's off in the secure box. There is free parking on the side of the station. 4823 Rugby Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Jane McGuire recommends the following:

1. Photomyne (it's an app for your phone). It's an easy way to scan a whole page of photos into individual photos.
2. Sloanes 301 468-4911: for consigning valuables that your family does not want.
3. Roland 301 717-4273 will go through a house to determine where things should go (auction, donation, etc.) and will transport them. You will get the tax receipts.

Other useful ideas:

1. **Morris Klein** recommends using Stage 2 A/V Productions on Norfolk Avenue in the Triangle to convert VHS tapes to thumb drives.
2. **Patti Steckler** recommends using a high-speed photo scanner.
3. **Nancy Balz** also recommends buying a good small shredder for home use if you have a lot of papers to shred.
4. **Lesley Rubinger** recommends every time you wear something in your closet, *turning the hanger backwards*. After one year, try disposing of those things you haven't worn.
5. **Nancy Balz** says there's a lot of interest in vinyl records, especially if the covers are in good condition. Nancy says we should not toss out records without first doing a little checking, including with [National Vinyl Record Day](#), [Record Store Day](#), and [Vinyl Day with MCPL](#).

Lesley Rubinger had the following thought about clothes: "When my children were little, I always made a big deal of them contributing their outgrown clothes and toys to 'the poor children.' And they've carried this into their adult lives with their own children. I feel so strongly about the Afghan and Ukrainian families that are in this country and have arrived with just the clothes on their backs, that giving things to charity makes one feel that we are doing something to help."