

How to Donate Goods to Charity

Written by Written by Julia Swem

Has the New Year inspired you to work on a new image? If so, make good use of the old and donate to a local charity.

Money:



Colonel Olin Hogan, Phoenix City Coordinator of the Salvation Army, says that donating money is a good option because it is the most direct way to help to people in need. "They can use that money to buy what specifics they need at any time," he says.

There are also a lot of different ways to give the money at convenience to the donor. One convenient way is to donate is online (www.salvationarmycares.org).

An individual can simply donate money or can designate it to a specific program listed on the Web site. The main Salvation Army programs include Project Hope, which is a homeless center, and a very successful adult rehabilitation center. "Some of these people have lost 10 to 20 years of their life due to substance abuse and they are now ready to make a change," says Captain James Boyd, Captain Administrator of the Adult Rehabilitation Center. "It's a great way for them to turn their life around and one person can help make that happen."

Hogan goes on to say that donations are always down after the holidays and heavily needed in January even more so this year than last. "This is because of two things," he says. "People who need services this year increased by 20 percent and this Christmas was down in revenue. So I'm really looking forward to more donations."

The money is also handled safely. The Salvation Army has three audits a year: one state audit, one from an outside firm, and an inside audit as well. Goodwill also has similar processes in collecting money. Jim Teter, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Central Arizona, says there are a couple ways to donate money, which include mailing a check or donating through its Web site (www.goodwillaz.org). "Donated money is handled very safely," Teter says. "Ninety cents of every dollar goes directly to a person in need."

Teter says an advantage to donating money is possibly receiving two tax credits. In the state of Arizona a donation should qualify for school and working poor tax credits.

The money is handled very well. Goodwill is audited annually. The organization has an audit community that is composed of independent volunteers to make sure money is being handled correctly.

Household Items:



Household items are in large demand. "It is a new year and a time for change," says Boyd, with the Salvation Army. "If you are cleaning and are wondering what to do with the old, donate it to a person in need. It is a new year for people in the rehabilitation center as well, and they want to turn their lives around."

Teter says Goodwill is composed of 99 percent material goods. "Material goods are what Goodwill is all about," Teter says. Goodwill is composed of thrift stores and the household items is what makes it possible. This also helps people in need find work. Teter says 2,000 people are working inside of Goodwill and 30,000 people last year enrolled in their 10 career centers across the Valley, making a huge economic impact.

There are a number of ways to donate household items. Goodwill has 46 stores, 10 of which will pick up donations. A list of locations is on its Web site.

The Salvation Army has a similar process. Donations can be dropped in drop boxes or at any of the seven stores in the Valley, but Boyd says most call or arrange online to have items picked up for free. A list of locations are also listed on the Web site.

According to Teter and Boyd the household items held at highest demand seem to be clothing, furniture and blankets. Boyd says clothes and blankets are very important for Project Hope for the homeless. Teter goes on to say that women's clothing tends to be in highest demand. He recommends Redesign on Scottsdale Road as a store worth looking at. "They have some really neat stuff," he says. But anything is worth something to Goodwill. Only 50 percent of donations end up on store shelves, the rest appear in clearance and will be sold by the pound. "We will take anything," Teter says. "Let us decide what is trash and usually almost nothing is. Each year we save so much from going to landfills. We're not really interested in grass clippings but anything else we will take."

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Larger Items:



Larger items including cars and motorcycles are also desired. The process is meant to be very donor friendly from both the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

Teter says most will call and schedule a time to have a car picked up. The donor is only responsible for determining the value of the car then Goodwill will later tell them what the car sold for. The donor will receive a tax deduct voucher and free towing. Teter says larger items are not limited to only cars. He's been glad to receive motorcycles and boats as well.

The Salvation Army works in a similar way. A donor will go on the Web site or call to schedule a pick up and the item will be picked up for free. Boyd says the Salvation Army does not use a third party when selling larger items and that allows more help to people in need at a faster pace. The donor will also receive a tax deductible voucher. "Thank you everyone for your support," Teter says. "You support keeps us running and expanding everyday."