

## Where To Take It All

By Susan Vogt

This is a follow-up to the activity titled **Spring Cleaning**. Often, deciding what to give away is the easy part. Actually finding the appropriate place to take the items you no longer need is much harder. It often takes research, time, and wheels.

### For

Adult / Couple

### Season

Spring

### Needed

Items that you have collected to give away and a means to transport them



### Prepare in Advance

Decide who or what agency you want to give your collected items to. Some possibilities that are available in most communities are:

- Neighbors & friends. Does anybody close to you need stuff you have? Perhaps you could do a “Free Yard Sale.” Just put stuff out, post a notice, and let people take.
- Local pregnancy centers, schools, nursing homes, homeless shelters, thrift stores
- St. Vincent DePaul – <http://www.svdpusa.org>
- Goodwill – <http://www.goodwill.org>
- FreeCycle – <http://www.freecycle.org> (It works like Craig’s List but no money is exchanged.)
- Viet Vets: Trucks come to your door for pick-ups – <http://www.vva.org> or [http://www.vvadonations.org/?utm\\_source=ESPN980web&utm\\_medium=Banner300x250&utm\\_campaign=Crosby\\_Clothesline](http://www.vvadonations.org/?utm_source=ESPN980web&utm_medium=Banner300x250&utm_campaign=Crosby_Clothesline)
- Lupus Foundation – Similar to Viet Vets. Trucks come to your door for pick-ups – <http://www.lupuspickup.org/gd.ZipCodeRedirector/default.aspx>
- Technology: Gazelle <http://www.gazelle.com> or Best Buy <http://www.bestbuy.com/site/null/Recycling-Electronics/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025&DCMP=rdr0001422>
- Books: local library’s *Friends of the Library* sale, used book stores, or Half Price Books <http://www.hpb.com>
- Hazardous waste – Google “hazardous waste pick-ups” for your community

### Activity Plan

1. If your spouse or other family members will be helping you to distribute the things you’ve decided to give away, gather them together.
2. Pray: Sit in quiet for a moment facing your stuff. Ponder the wealth of things you have. Then put your awareness into words. It might go something like this:

*Generous God, in addition to the people who grace my life, you have gifted us with many treasures. Help us to share what we have so that others may benefit. Amen.*

3. Read Matthew 6:25 (often referred to as the “lilies of the field” scripture).

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”



4. Take your “give aways” to your neighbors, friends, charitable organizations, or recycling facility.
5. While you walk, drive, or do internet searches to find homes for your goods, pray for the people who will use the items you no longer need.

