

Newsletter, November 2011

Do you Know Where Your Mittens Are?

My good friend Lori lives outside of Philadelphia. If you hadn't heard over the weekend they had a surprise snow of 4". I jokingly said to her on facebook, I bet you haven't even switched out your summer clothes yet, let alone found all the hats, mittens, and gloves for the winter! If you have young children, now is the time to take inventory of winter coats, boots, mittens, scarves and hats. Not the night before or morning of the first snow! There's nothing worse than shoving your kids feet into 'too small' boots because they are SO excited about going out in that first snow! Winter coats that are too small or have broken zippers don't work well either in all the excitement. Oh and I forgot to mention the all important snowpants! I keep a bin of 'winter gear' in the basement so on those surprise snow mornings it's pretty simple to lug the bin up the stairs and dig through it.

The BIG Switcharoo!

This month we are going to talk about the big SWITCHAROO! That is, moving the summer clothes out and making room for the the fall winter wardrobe. I know it's November and I am hoping the majority of you may have already done so, but if not, let this be your official warning that it needs to get done! Just think you might be in for a surprise snowstorm!

Not everyone (including myself) have the luxury of two closets to swap the clothes between. I personally have one small walk in closet so the out of season clothes live towards the back and the in season clothes live in the front.

The first step is to remove all your spring/summer clothes from the closet and as you are going through your summer clothes, think about how often or if you ever wore each item. If you did not wear the item this summer, then ask yourself what is the likelihood that you will wear it next summer. If it's low to not likely, then it's time to start a box for donating, consigning, or giving away. Consignment shops will most likely not be interested in your spring/summer items until the new year. So put them in a box or container and make a note to yourself on the calendar to take the items in for consignment. See my article below about Posh Boutique in Shorewood.

As you are moving your fall and winter items in, you should also consider the likelihood that you will wear something. Now is the time to take these items right to the place you plan to donate them or consign them. If you are donating the items, make sure you keep a list of each item and its value. For a current valuation guide go to www.goodwillindustries.com or www.salvationarmy.com. Both valuation guides are great for determining the value of your tax deduction.

If you don't have much storage for off season clothing, then you might consider investing in some space bags. They come in cubes now and might work a little nicer at stacking.

With one of my clients, I was able to consolidate several tubs into the space bag cubes and put them all in just one tub. Worked out great!