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Loveland family finds giving stuff away is its own reward

By Sarah Bultema
Loveland Reporter-Herald

Mike Morone's idea started with a toaster.

It was a perfectly good appliance, one that worked just fine, yet it had sat unused in storage after it was replaced in the kitchen by a newer toaster.

"The old one was bothering me, sitting on the shelf for months," said Morone, who lives in upstate New York. "I knew someone could use it."

That's when he decided to just give it away.

And soon, Morone realized the approach could apply to other things in his home that weren't being used by his family but could be by another.

The concept kept ballooning, until Morone's idea popped into Give Your Stuff Away Day.

The national event, held Saturday, May 15, is calling on people across the country to place their unwanted items on the curb to be taken by others in the community who could use them.

Like Halloween night, Morone envisions people placing out their own goodies to be picked up while cruising the streets to find treats of their own.

"I thought it was a good distribution method to get things out of our homes we don't need to people who might benefit from them," Morone said.

"They'll thank you, but you can thank them because they take that stuff off your hands. It's a win-win."

While this May will mark the second annual Give Your Stuff Away Day event, it's a concept the McDonald family of Loveland has been exercising for years.

Whenever the family of four replaces an appliance, outgrows their clothing or simply doesn't want something anymore, they place it on their curb under a sign that reads "Free."

"People call us the free corner," said the father, Levi McDonald.

Levi, along with his wife, Faith, and two children, have placed everything from furniture to computers to records outside their home for others to take.

They used to hold garage sales but soon realized the hassle, planning and money weren't worth the effort.



Reporter-Herald/Sarah Bultema
Faith McDonald, left, and her husband, Levi McDonald, right, place items on the curb of their Loveland home for anyone to pick up for free. The couple constantly give away their unwanted stuff to others who need it.

“We had the sale to get people to take away our stuff,” Levi said.

“Instead, let’s just put it on the corner. I bet someone will take it away.”

They quickly realized how well the idea worked.

“Everything goes,” Faith said.

And while their unwanted things are taken away, the family often receives words of thanks in return — a reward much better than the dollars they might get selling the item.

“It feels better to me to make someone’s day,” Faith said. “It just feels good to give.”

The couple hadn’t previously heard of Give Your Stuff Away Day, although they agreed it was a good idea.

Morone encourages everyone in the country to take their household items to the curb May 15 to be picked up by someone who needs them.

“It’s really an ordinary citizen event,” he said, adding that it’s easy for anyone to participate.

“I encourage people to think about getting rid of stuff they don’t need.”

MORE: For more information about Give Your Stuff Away Day, as well as a list of suggested items to give away, visit www.giveyourstuffaway.com.

Comments

I really like your hair, Faith! And this idea is awesome! I used to throw my old stuff in the trash but then some guy started living in the trashcan in the alley and scaring me away so i think i'm going to try your free idea.

Elmo., Loveland, CO, 5/2/2010 11:03:04 AM

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