

Spring is the Season of Hope, and Where There's Goodwill, There is a Way!

by Goodwill Central Coast Staff

Spring is the season of hope — full of meaning and promise that things will get better.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant," wrote English poet Anne Bradstreet. "If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Spring officially begins on March 21 when we have tipped the balance from longer nights to longer days. Equinox means "equal night" of light and dark (roughly), and metaphorically, we should also spend more time in the light.

To give us more light and more hope, the U.S. adopted daylight saving time in 1918 to help reduce the cost of energy. Longer days meant reduced electricity for lighting and appliances, with added bonuses of less crime and fewer traffic accidents.

We have stuck with the tradition and soon we will set our clocks forward one hour. That means losing an hour of sleep but adding an hour of daylight to our evenings.

What will you do with that extra hour of daylight? Goodwill Central Coast offers this suggestion: Use it as a reminder to take a step back and look at the things in our lives that need work or a refresh.

Daylight savings comes in handy because we can use the extra hour in the day to do something productive — like tackle that area of the closet you have been too scared to go through for the last month.

If decluttering is at the top of your to-do list, you may find yourself gathering up donations to drop-off at your local GCC donation site.

While there is no right or wrong way to prepare your items for Goodwill, there are some simple things you can do to make the donation process more streamlined. Take these simple steps to make the drop-off easier and ensure your donations deliver the most impact possible.

Instead of packing all of the items you plan to donate into a single bag or box, separate them by category. We recommend separating soft items like clothing from other breakable items, like dishes. This will make the sorting process easier for the donation center attendants and prevent accidental damage.

Here are some tips that you may find helpful:

Apparel

- Keep shoes as a pair. Tie those laces together or put a rubber band around them so they do not become separated. The hottest trend is clothing from the 1970s and '80s — and now even the '90s. Interesting and popular fabrics are highly desirable and a welcomed donation. Accessories such as scarves, belts, hats and handbags are always in demand. These items go a long way in providing a



well-balanced assortment at our store locations, where we employ nearly 300 staff members. Of course if you're a donor picking out a new pair of jeans, why not pick out a cool belt to go with it.

Jewelry

- Jewelry is an extremely desirable donation. All jewelry we receive, along with rare coins, stamps, gold and silver scraps, are sent to our secured and specialized jewelry center. We have a team of highly trained staff members testing, validating and purveying all of these items. We accept all types of items, and have a secure process in place for your jewelry donation to be protected. We even have sophisticated precious metal and gem testers to validate gold and other gems so we can allow our donors to purchase these wonderful items.

Electronics

- We accept items such as functioning electric keyboards, personal computers, tablets, video games and consoles, cellular phones, stereos and speakers. Broken or damaged items are responsibly recycled, keeping them out of the waste stream.

Fragile items

- If you have any fragile items to donate, such as dishes, porcelain figurines, jewelry, or mirrors, make sure you package them carefully to avoid breakage. If fragile items are boxed up, please mark "fragile" on the outside of the box.

Games/puzzles

- For items that have multiple pieces like puzzles and games, make sure everything is accounted for. And be sure to put a rubber band around the outside of the box so items will not get lost.

Containers

- We welcome your donations whether they come in a bag, box, or any other container. We will recycle plastic bags and cardboard boxes, but you can also deliver your goods in reusable containers such as fabric bags, plastic bins, and even laundry baskets for a more sustainable way to donate.

Once you've gathered and organized the items you want to donate, the last step is taking them to your nearest Goodwill Central Coast donation center.

Once collected, your donations will be given a second life in our retail stores, where they will generate funds to support our job training programs and employment services throughout our shared communities.

So, make the most of that extra hour of daylight! Your newfound organizational skills can translate into real change through the power of employment. ■

DON'T LIVE A DISPOSABLE LIFE

The average American throws away about



70
pounds

**of clothing and other
textiles each year.**

Turn the tide. Your donations lead to stronger communities through the power of work — and a healthier planet through the power of repurposing.



Goodwill Central Coast builds lives, families and communities by helping people with employment needs become successful, supported by innovative enterprises that preserve earth's resources.