

# resale houston

Priceless  
MAGAZINE

October 2008

[www.resalehouston.com](http://www.resalehouston.com)



*Your guide to  
resale shopping*

Operation: Clean Out  
Charitable Contribution  
Look What I Found  
Coupons Inside



*any people will benefit from your donation to local Charity & Mission Resale Shops, but Did You know that You may very well benefit from donating when Tax season comes around?*

*This past month I visited with CPA, Ed Golden, & took some noteworthy advice from him about Donating and I asked him to pass on that advice to you in this Issue.*

*Time to do some fall cleaning!!! Most of you are probably ahead of the game since Ike gave most of us a boost on remodeling, redecorating & re organizing. If you are in the midst of some fall cleaning & need a little push on letting go of some stuff hire, Personal organizer, Janine Godwin with Nooks and Crannies.*

*If you can't decide to re-sell or donate your clothes then, visit The Corner Closet. The owner, Susan Dunn, will look through your clothes & whatever she doesn't sell will be donated to The Fort Bend Shared Dreams School Program or Tri-City Thrift.*



*Make sure that when you donate, follow the tips of Janine Godwin. Please, Do Not Donate Junk!!! You have 3 months left to catch your Tax Deduction for 2008 so donate before December 31st!*

Linse Meadows  
Publisher  
Resale Houston Magazine  
[www.ResaleHouston.com](http://www.ResaleHouston.com)

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Fred Boone  
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Send comments & suggestions to [LinseMeadows@Gmail.com](mailto:LinseMeadows@Gmail.com)

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# resale houston directory

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AppleSassy

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Another Debut  
Attic Treasures  
B & M Trading Post  
Baubles & Beads  
Box of Chocolate  
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# Look What I found



Red Door  
Marc Jacobs ~ \$325



Red Door  
Louis Vuitton ~ \$799

Mission Thrift Shop, Kingsize Bed &  
Dresser & Mirror & 2 Night Stands ~ \$300



# OPERATION: *Clean Out*

by Janine Godwin, CPO®

Fall is in the air, and soon we will begin the process of wardrobe switching – moving aside the summer clothing to make room for cooler weather items. It is also a time that the holiday decorations begin to surface and that long ignored storage area is like a time bomb waiting to detonate. This is a perfect transition time to really look at items you no longer need or wear. This process could create a pile larger than a jumbo jet, and then you are hit with the dilemma of what to do with those discards. Do you sell, toss or donate? If you are considering donating items to your favorite local charity, or think you may want to take a stab at consignment, take time to check out the tips below.



- When choosing which items to give away, donate items that charities can sell to make a profit. Think about what it is that you are donating and if it can truly benefit the charity. Most, if not all, have limited funds and disposing of items that are of no use to them and *costs* them money. Charities will appreciate and benefit from your thoughtfulness.
- With recent recalls on children's items (toys, baby equipment) be sure to see if the items you want to donate are not included on any government list. Some charities will not accept these items.
- Clothing items, which are stained or torn, really should not be considered for donation or resale. Bear in mind as well, that if you paid an exorbitant amount for a piece of clothing, and it is used, you may not be able sell it for what you think you will. You have to accept this aspect of resale. A \$200 blouse does not necessarily equate to a \$200 resale value.
- Think of where you would like to donate or consign items. Baby items can be given to

pregnancy help centers. Cell phones can be donated to various charities like Cell Phones for Soldiers or a local battered women's shelter. Dress for Success is a terrific program for women's business clothing. Non-profits or schools may consider your unwanted and gently used holiday decorations. Consign at shops that specialize in your items for the best rate of success.

- Never assume your items are accepted for donation. Check the charity's website or give them a call if you are uncertain of a particular item. Likewise for resale – there should be a market for it. Just because you think it has value, may not be the case. It really does benefit you to do some homework ahead of time. "One man's junk" may not

be the 'treasure' you think, and be just junk.

- Is the clean out process a daunting task? Set up a 'donation' or 'resale' basket in your closet and try and donate/consign once a month instead of seasonally or annually. This keeps the closets from overflowing and may inspire you to do it more often. It will be easier to keep track of the value of what you are donating or consigning as well. Breaking this task down into a monthly "to-do" will make it manageable and not as overwhelming.
- Make it easy on yourself – if there is a pick-up service available use it. This will keep you motivated to keep the process moving along.

**TAX TIP:** Make your donations work for you in more ways than one. Keep all receipts for tax purposes. Not sure of the worth? keep track electronically on-line at [www.itsdeductibleonline.com](http://www.itsdeductibleonline.com) by Intuit. This program will calculate what your items are currently worth.

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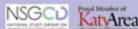
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# Charitable CONTRIBUTION



**M**ost of us, at one time or another have donated to a charitable organization those items we no longer need or use. While the idea behind the donation is charitable, many of us miss the opportunity to save a little on our taxes at the same time. Properly documenting the donation can result in additional write-offs come tax time. Non-Cash Charitable donations, along with Cash donations, property taxes, mortgage interest, and medical expenses above the IRS limitation threshold, make up most of the itemized deductions many of us deduct on our Federal and State Income Tax Returns.

When making donations, a few simple steps can make the donation much easier to record and support come tax time. Use your digital camera to take pictures of the items being donated. Special emphasis should be placed on photographing new or unused items to show that they were still in original wrapping. This type of documentation not only provides you with proof of what was donated, it lends additional proof as to quantity and quality of the items donated (were the items new, like new, slightly used, or well worn). Since most digital camera's also date stamp the images, you will also have a dated receipt that should approximate the date shown on the receipt from the charitable organization.

When valuing clothing, personal items, and furniture, keep in mind that the Fair Market Value of the item is the amount that you are allowed to deduct. Used clothing is worth far less than what you actually paid for it. Also, keep in mind that only clothing

in good or better condition can be deducted. A good judge of values would be the thrift store prices that you find similar items for. While no list can provide you with what you should deduct, valuation approximations on Salvation Army or Goodwill websites may assist you in arising at the value of your donation.

A very important part of the process is to make sure you keep the acknowledgement receipt the charitable organization gives you. Even though most of them are very vague, they should be completed in their entirety and signed by the recipient, thus establishing the date of the donation.

I would also suggest reading IRS Publication 561 – Determining the Value of Donated Property – to help you better understand what you can deduct. Remember, there is nothing wrong with letting Uncle Sam subsidize your charitable contributions. If you feel guilty, just donate the tax savings to a local charity, and they receive the benefit of your efforts.

Happy Giving,  
William L. Golden, CPA

*William Golden is part owner of the local CPA firm Potter & Golden, P.C. located in southwest Houston at 11111 Wilcrest Green, Suite 440 Houston, Texas 77042. Specializing in tax and bookkeeping, Mr. Golden has been an owner or employee of local CPA firms for the past 25+ years. Contact Bill at 713-972-1304 and let him see how he can help you save money on next year's taxes.*



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Bill Olive for the  
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## The Mission of Yahweh Thrift Shop

I am proud to be the new manager of the Mission Thrift Shop, located at 8151 Long Point between Wirt and Bingle, just north of I-10 West. We are part of the Mission of Yahweh. The Mission of Yahweh is a Christian shelter that ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of homeless and battered women and children. The Mission has been in operation since 1961 and has grown today to a 12-building campus where more than 1,600 residential stays are supported each month.

Residents receive food, shelter, Christian counseling, clothing, computer training, job placement, coaching and an excellent program for at-risk kids. The Mission Thrift Shop supports this work of healing lives. We're a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations of cash to The Mission or goods to the store are tax deductible.

Our goal at the Mission Thrift Shop is to have excellent items priced to help others. We carry clothes, furniture, TV's, computers and other electronics as well as all types of nick nacks, kitchen items, china, crystal, and other household items. Our items are very competitively priced and we support families in need from the many churches that support us. Our items are in working condition and clean, even though they are inexpensive. We want all our customers to get maximum value for their hard earned dollar.

We appreciate all our donors and customers and we are here to serve. Our shop is a place where everyone is respected and we enjoy talking to and helping our growing list of customers. We look forward to seeing you in the near future!!

Fred Boone

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