

Giving Day

Toy clutter is one of the biggest problems for parents of all ages. As soon as you get things under control, up pops a birthday or holiday with toys, toys and more toys.

The solution is simple; keep the toys moving. Be sure there is as much going out as is coming in. If it's that easy, why is it so hard? Why do we find our closets, toy boxes, bedrooms and family rooms overflowing with toys?

Giving Day is a wonderful tradition to start in your family. On Giving Day your child goes through h/her toys and decides which h/she no longer needs, uses or loves. (Sometimes this is tougher for the parents than it is for the kids!) Together you take them to a local charity that serves children & families or to a non profit thrift shop. Finish the day off with a trip to the ice-cream shop or favorite restaurant.

Adults can have a Giving Day too. Vow to donate \$2, \$5, \$10 or more for each year you celebrate on your birthday. Along with your children, select an organization that fights childhood illness. Your 'birthday gift' might give someone else the opportunity to see the same birthday you have been fortunate enough to reach.

Creating a Giving Day tradition can be life long training. It teaches us how to let go, purchase wisely and help others. The most valuable lesson is appreciating the astounding blessings each day and each year bring.

Linda Ely is the owner of Organizing Matters, an Organization Consultant and a member of NAPO, National Association of Professional Organizers. Linda is the founder of Faithful Organizers, the only nationwide virtual community of Christian Professional Organizers.

Organizing Matters is committed to helping clients reach their goal of a more organized home, workplace and schedule. To learn more, *visit* www.OrganizingMatters.com or *e-mail* her at LindaE@OrganizingMatters.com