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Simply Back to Basics
*Providing Customized Solutions for Life Situations**

Get it Together! Keep it Together! Let Linda Help!

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Linda's Organizing Tip for January 2008:

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Do you have Excess Electronics?

Many people ask me what to do with unwanted monitors, printers, and various computer peripherals. Most people want to donate these items, but do not know how to go about it easily, and without compromising security of their personal information. Thorough removal of the information is critical. Here are some links to sites that provide guidelines around data erasure and the important environmental reasons to keep items like this out of landfills.

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin/pdf/pcthing-con.pdf>
<http://www.techsoup.com/learningcenter/hardware/page4788.cfm#q11>

FYI: for my Buffalo Tip Readership.

Erie County is sponsoring a Computers, Textiles and Trees recycling program this Saturday 1/12/08 in the Buffalo Zoo Parking Lot. A flyer with information is attached.

I contacted the City of Buffalo office coordinating the event and learned that computers that are brought for recycling to the Zoo Drive will be recycled by Electronic Recycling Technologies (ERT), a Buffalo Based company <http://www.ertrecycling.com/> and the largest computer recycling company in WNY (according to my helper in the City of Buffalo Office). ERT assures the following Data Security. ERT states that "all hard drives received will be overwritten and erased, or ground and smelted. No data will be left on any hard drive".

In case you are unable to get to the Zoo this weekend, I also learned that Goodwill accepts donations of computers, cell phones, electronics (mp3 players, videos games, TVs, VCRS, DVD players, etc.) and small appliances at all store locations and drop off spots, year-round. They will accept working or non-working items (although to be tax deductible items must be in "good" or better condition). Donors do not have to state whether the items are working or not as Goodwill tests all items and what doesn't work is recycled. Goodwill uses the same company, Electronic Recycling Technologies (ERT). I was really glad to know that they will accept these items and they do not have to go to landfills and I am pleased to be able to share it with you.

Start gathering your Hazardous Waste items, as the next Collection will be at ECC North in May 2008!

For my readership outside the Buffalo area, the EPA.gov link above has links to other agencies in your area that may have similar collection programs.

January is National Get Organized Month!!

If you need help with organizing, simply call Linda.

These tips are for sharing!
Please forward to others interested in organizing ideas.

I welcome all feedback about these articles. Please feel free to e-mail me anytime.
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