



The Tough Facts About Organizing for the Generations

"I'm saving this for my children."

Here's the tough part, Mom. Your children may not want the things you have lovingly maintained for many years. They may reject the stuff, but they still love you.

Why this time warp between generations and stuff? Here's a look at generational profiles and their organizational needs.

Baby Boomers

Post-World War II children, born between 1946 and 1964, grew up in a world of emerging consumerism. Their parents spoke of the Great Depression, reused aluminum foil and saved gazillions of margarine tubs. The Baby Boomers acquired many mass-produced, non-unique possessions during their earning years. As retirement advances, they are seeking solutions to the huge volume of stuff they have accumulated.

Generation X

These children of Baby Boomers were born between 1965 and 1982. They grew up on television including Saturday morning cartoons and their sponsor's commercials. Known as the Me Generation, they tend to have very defined preferences, which may not include their parents' old stuff. With shelves full of CD's and video tapes, they may have "orphan" electronic media and equipment.

Generation Y

This generation started in 1986 and is known as the Internet Generation. Stuff is measured more in a virtual sense for Gen Y'er's. Their standard operating equipment includes computer, cell phone, and a portable music device. Never without information or social connections, they are avid users of Instant Messaging, websites and blogs. Their world is a technological arena which requires very few non-electronic items.

So What Do I Do With All This Stuff?

- Break down overwhelming organizing jobs into smaller tasks.
- Share useful items with others who can use or otherwise appreciate them.
- Track progress through digital photos or counting boxes and bags removed from your home.
- Recycle materials where appropriate.
- Ask a Professional Organizer for recommendations on how to manage the flow of stuff coming into the home.

Call Ellen Hankes at 712.256.7875 for more information.

Organization Solutions for your Home, Office or Life.