

Donating things to charities

For these charities, YOU deliver the goods to them—or some will arrange pick-up.

* **Furniture Bank:** 11 Peel Ave., near Queen St. W. and Dufferin, 416-934-1229, www.furniturebank.org. For a small charge, you can actually have the bank come and pick up those bulky donations of furniture and household goods. You receive a tax deductible charitable receipt, according to a menu of values, and chances are you'll come out ahead. Working with different agencies, the bank annually helps set up more than 2,500 households for the homeless, with everything from dishes and sheets to couches and bookshelves, TVs and artwork. (They scrupulously check and treat all upholstered furniture for bed bugs.) The agency also has an employment program.

* **Oasis Clothing Bank:** 186 Bartley Dr., 416-751-0553, www.clothingbank.ca. You've probably seen Oasis bins around for clothing donations. This agency, which supports programs for recovering drug addicts and alcoholics, provides free pickup for clothing, small furniture and household goods. Michael Liepner, who organizes home contents sales through his company, The Next Move, schedules an Oasis visit at the end of a sale to clear out unsold items. Oasis sells the clothing to Value Village, but keeps furniture and household goods to help its clientele with accommodation.

* **The Scott Mission:** 502 Spadina Ave., 416-923-8872, www.scottmission.com. This charity will pick up donations from your home. The mission doesn't want furniture, but welcomes clothing, toiletries, small household items and bedding. Shoes and boots are always in high demand. Unopened toiletries, particularly those little bottles of shampoo from hotels, come in handy.

* **The Good Neighbours' Club:** 170 Jarvis St., 416-366-5377, www.goodneighboursclub.org. The club serves men 50 years and over, offering a place to go during the day, meals (80,000 served annually), showers and support. The club always needs men's clothing, outerwear, shoes and boots (both winter and work), toiletries and razors. It can also use mysteries, westerns and crime novels, books about adventure, sports, travel, as well as how-to volumes, and magazines such as National Geographic, Time, Maclean's, and Sports Illustrated are well received.

* **Double Take Store** 310 Gerrard Street East, just east of Parliament, 1.1 km from 40 Part of Yonge Street Mission, Double Take deals in apparel, home decor and some furniture. There is pick up for larger donations. Check the website (<http://www.ysm.ca/double-take/>) or email Kathy kwebster@ysm.ca