

# Make Recycling Gifts a Holiday Tradition

by Shirley Fine Lee



Many of us have gotten a gift and thought “What were they thinking” or “I already have one of these.” What do we typically do with those gifts? Do we wrap them in different paper and stick a card on them in order to pass it on to someone else? This is not a bad thing, when it’s called recycling. Recycling is in! So doing it makes us cool – right? After all, it is only frowned upon if the original giver believes their thoughtfulness was not appreciated or the new recipient sees it as unimaginative re-gifting. So let’s be sure we do it right.

## How do we recycle or repurpose a gift in a good way?

To recycle a gift, we give it to someone we know who needs it. At this time of year, there are many groups collecting clothes, toys, and food for the needy. Of course, we can buy something to share instead of recycling something we have or we may donate money so the group can fill needs where other types of donations were not sufficient. Many of the groups collecting for children want new items, but some groups will take previously used items. An example of a sought after used item is technology, such as computers and phones after we choose to update ours. See <http://www.computerswithcauses.org/>, <http://donatemycellphone.org/> or <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/> for places to donate technology.

To repurpose a gift, we can donate it to a charitable organization. That organization may redistribute the donation or they may sell it in order to raise money to support their cause. Whether the donation is done by an individual, a business, a religious group, or a professional association; it will be appreciated by the receiving organization. If we want to help a charity, but we have nothing to give at this time we can consider doing a drive at our place of business or worship. We can ask others to help out as well. We can make a plan to help out in our communities by finding out what our local community or church food bank needs are for this time of year. Another option is to volunteer our time, this is a great way to share and many organizations need the help during the holiday season. Many shelters need people to serve food on the holidays or pass out items to the needy, and other organizations need people to make deliveries.

To find more ways we can help with donations or volunteering during the holidays, check out the multitude of options on <http://www.charityguide.org>.

**About the Author:** Shirley Fine Lee is the author of “[R.A.I.R.A! A Meeting Wizard’s Approach](#)”, a guide to planning and conducting meetings to be productive, effectual, and smoothly run as possible. She has considerable training and expertise in leading effective meetings herself, as well as training others to do the same. Shirley has worked as a training and development specialist since 1986, and an independent consultant since 2000 when she joined Dallas ASTD. She has extensive experience helping organizations with their team building, training development, meeting facilitation, presentation delivery, and other communication needs. You may read many business articles by Shirley (some of the e-articles may be reprinted in company newsletters) from her website or on the multi-contributor productivity tips blog at <http://2bproductive.blogspot.com/>. If you want to find out more about Shirley or how to contact her, see her website at [www.ShirleyFineLee.com](http://www.ShirleyFineLee.com).