

# Spring Cleaning for a Good Cause

After giving birth to her first child three years ago, Kendra Robins of San Francisco returned to her full-time job as a corporate attorney but soon realized she needed a change. "I felt as if I were juggling a lot of balls but not pleasing anyone – and I missed being with my son," Robins says.

As part of her law career, Robins often worked with nonprofit organizations and it was always her dream to one day establish her own charitable organization. Two years ago, her dream became a reality with the formation of Project Night Night, a San Francisco nonprofit that delivers thousands of care packages to children in homeless and transient shelters throughout the country.

"I saw how much my son, Cole, cherished his blanket, books and stuffed animals and how they gave him comfort when we were away from home," Robins says. "One day, I began thinking of all of the children who have no home or who have to leave their home and comfort items behind."

Today, Cole, 3-1/2, helps his mom and other volunteers assemble Project Night Night packages. Last year, the organization donated more than 9,000 packages to needy children – mostly gently used children's clothes, books and toys that were donated by other parents.

When you're doing your spring cleaning this year and find those items that your children no longer use but can still be enjoyed by others, consider donating them to nonprofit organizations like Project Night Night and some of the others listed here.

## Baby Items

**The Clothing and Furniture Program at St. Anthony's** accepts donations of children's clothing, shoes, strollers and high chairs. Donations may be dropped off at 101 8th St., at the corner of Mission Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Donations can also be picked up at your home if you live within the San Francisco city limits. For more information about donations, or to schedule a pickup, call 415-241-8300.



**Girl Scout Troop 547 helps stuff Project Night Night bags, which are then distributed to homeless and other needy children in San Francisco.** PHOTO COURTESY OF PROJECT NIGHT NIGHT

**Project Night Night** accepts gently used stuffed animals, children's books and new blankets. Care packages are given to homeless children birth to 10 years. Every child who receives a Night Night Package leaves the shelter with a book that encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket, which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal, which can become a cherished friend. Visit [www.projectnightnight.org](http://www.projectnightnight.org) for drop-off locations or call 415-310-0360.

## Bicycles

**Pedal Revolution** is an organization that teaches at-risk and homeless youth to refurbish bikes and to hold steady jobs. They welcome your donations of used bikes. 3085 21st St., San Francisco, 415-641-1264.

## Blankets, Linens

Your blankets, linens and towels can prove to be the cat's meow when you donate them to the **San Francisco SPCA** (or other local animal shelters). These items are used to line animal cages and also used for grooming. The SPCA drop off location is inside the Spay/Neuter clinic at 2500 16th St. (between Harrison and Bryant). For more information, call 415-554-3000.

## Books

**Reach Out and Read** trains doctors and nurses to advise