

Mountainside teen gives toys get second chance

Items that would have gone out with the trash find a home with some delighted youngsters

DAILY RECORD STAFF REPORT

MORRISTOWN -- The idea for Second Chance Toys came to Sasha Lipton as she was driving around her neighborhood.

The 16-year-old Mountainside resident noticed that there were a lot of toys out on the curb waiting to be picked up by trash haulers.

"I saw so many toys being disposed of at the curb, and many of them looked as if they could still be used," Sasha said. "It got me thinking how these discarded toys were so wasteful, terrible for the environment, and that many children would love to have them."

Thus Second Chance Toys was born, with Sasha and her mother collecting unwanted toys that still are useable. They repair, clean and repackage them before distributing them to children in need.

Toys now have been donated around the state, and on Thursday, Lipton brought a bunch to the Salvation Army Child Care Center in Morristown.

"The kids were loving it," said Bronna Lipton, Sasha's mother. "And we were excited. It was our 400th toy donated."

Bronna Lipton said she and her daughter look for plastic toys in particular because they don't biodegrade in the landfills.

"They also clean up really well," she said. "We can get them to look almost brand new. We power wash them."

The toys dropped off on Thursday included a tricycle, balls and a dollhouse.

The kids seem to love them, Sasha said.

"They just flocked to the toys," she said. "It puts a huge smile on my face. The kids were so happy."

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Kathy Paparella, left, director of day-care operations for the Salvation Army in Morristown, left, helps Sasha Lipton, 16, unload toys that will be donated to youngsters in need on Thursday.

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Angelica Gomez, left, and Katheryne Santos play with the newly donated toys given by Second Chance Toys at the Salvation Army day-care center in Morristown on Thursday. The donations were from Second Chance Toys, which was founded by Sasha Lipton of Mountainside as a way to give used toys to youngsters who would want them.