

# The Record

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## Toy drive takes a green tack

Program aids kids by keeping throwaways out of landfills

By **LOUISA VALENTIN-MELENDZ**

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POMPTON LAKES – A 16-year-old and her family have found a way to bring some joy to children in need while promoting environmentally friendly practices.

Sasha Lipton, who created the community program Second Chance Toys, is donating 30 toys today to the Arc chapter of Bergen and Passaic counties at Passaic Child Center in Pompton Lakes.

The Arc cares for developmentally disabled children up to age 3.

In all, Sasha has collected more than 400 items through Second Chance Toys, which rescues used toys that are about to be thrown away and cleans, sanitizes and gift-wraps them.

Sasha started collecting them last summer when she realized families were tossing out toys that could be used by others. The toys are given to local non-profit organizations that care for children with men-

### How to help

For information about Second Chance Toys, call 908-789-2995 or e-mail [slipton@secondchance-toys.org](mailto:slipton@secondchance-toys.org).

tal disabilities or those who are in need.

"We mostly focus on getting plastic toys because they are easy to clean and safe for the children," said Shelly Lipton, who assisted in his daughter's efforts along with his wife, Bronna. He said that many of the toys they collect would have ended up in the trash.

"When you put a power washer on these toys, it's amazing the difference you see," he said, saying people often junk their toys because "it's human nature to do what's easy."

Second Chance Toys is based in the Lipton's Mountainside home for now, but the family hopes that their toy-rescue effort will gain support from surrounding communities and other volunteer organizations.