

COMMUNITY

A small idea blossoms into huge holiday spirit

By Kathryn Boyle
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Tracey Thornhill was doing some cleaning and got into the Christmas spirit.

While emptying her closet of purses she no longer had use for, she decided she would fill them with lotions, soaps and other every day things, and then donate them to a local charity.

Talking to a Facebook group, Free Stuff in Halton Hills, on Nov. 30 she wrote a post explaining her idea and requesting any purses residents wouldn't mind finding another home. And the response was overwhelming.

"It just blossomed," Thornhill explained. "I'm shocked. I didn't even put it into motion yet, it was just an idea. Next thing I knew it was 10 o'clock (at night) and people were asking me where they could donate."

With purses piling up in her front hallway, Thornhill went to the Acton Links2Care and asked if they would be able to distribute the bags in the area.

"They said it would be a great complement to what they were doing," she said.

The catch: she had a two-week deadline. Act-



Tracey Thornhill collected purses and donated them to Links2Care.

ing quickly, Thornhill set up a box in her porch where people could donate purses or anything to fill them on their own time. On Dec. 15, she delivered multiple boxes filled to the brim with over 50 donated purses. Over the holidays, Links2Care will fill them and distribute them.

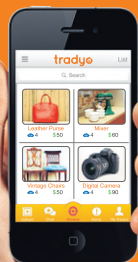
"People have been so generous," Thornhill said. "People that I've never met before are coming and dropping off really nice bags."

Thornhill is so inspired she said she will come back with Purses for a Purpose next year, bigger and better.

"I think it's going to be big," she said. "I think I could get 175 to 200."



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