

Like



Hello, Friends!

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Feb. 2019 -January Was GO Month - Now, Let's GO Get Organized!

Some of you know that I belong to our local NAPO Michigan Chapter. NAPO stands for National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. We are a networking group who meet monthly, and we help educate our other members about different organizing topics to help them grow their businesses.

Two weeks ago, a group of our NAPO members held a challenging contest through The Detroit News Homestyle section, trying to find "Detroit's Messiest Office." There were some challenging entries, and we had many submissions to choose from.

Part of the application process was asking contestants to fill out a form, telling us why they wanted to win the contest. One entry stood out to us.

We chose a gentleman — Mark Steele — who lives in Farmington Hills. In his application, he explained that his wife had passed away in March 2018. She had worked in his office and did a lot of crafts, which helped him get really crowded in his surroundings.

Mark wanted to take the office back, but was overwhelmed with all the decisions that had to be made. After we began working with him, our committee realized we couldn't have asked for a better partner in this project.

We donated 38 boxes of Mark's excess items to good causes, plus he gave away an unneeded computer desk. That included 28 boxes containing craft items and five boxes of clothing. We partnered with Veteran Charity Services in Westland. They made Mark's organizational project easy because they came to the house and took everything away.

Mark's motto for the day was, "If I haven't looked in it for 15 years, why should I look at it now?" He kept several special items his late wife had made and some of their cherished memories.

At the end, as Mark glanced around his neat, clean and organized office, we all agreed — it was an amazing transformation!

We raised a bit of money from our chapter and corporate sponsors, so we were able to buy Mark a lamp for his roll-top desk, new window treatments, bookcases, magazine holders, a seat cushion and a new rug. It was and still is a good feeling to help someone escape the constraints and maze of disorganization.

Now, Mark looks forward to using his office. Isn't that the perfect goal for all of us?

I've included some "before" and "after" pictures and here is the link to the story:

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/life/home-garden/2019/01/24/organizers-napo-messiest-room/2538523002/?fbclid=IwAR2fGVINC5P7k3Oa8qOSmbKfOCM4gCFYT43WO0QaJdCiLPbwWwVCBHXu5Co>

I was also interviewed by a local reporter, Sally Rummel and here is her article that appeared a few weeks ago:

https://www.tctimes.com/living/is-your-mess-causing-you-stress-de-clutter-your-home/article_2398221a-15cb-11e9-96c5-67f920d37029.html

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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