

Moving

NO MATTER THE STAGE IN LIFE, MOVING CAN BE AN OVERWHELMING PROCESS. FOR SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE PROSPECT OF UPROOTING A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES CAN BE BOTH EMOTIONAL AND STRESSFUL.

When it's time for seniors to move from their homes, it can often be very difficult to figure out what to do with all of the "stuff" they've accumulated over the years. Or, maybe that move has already taken place and you, the caregiver, must deal with all of it. But, it's not all just "stuff" – it represents a lifetime of memories.

Typically, seniors reside in their homes for 20 to 50 years. With so many memories established in that home, oftentimes it's the little things that hold special meanings. As much as they would like to take everything with them, it's inconceivable that every single item could make the move to a new apartment or a room. (Maybe, hopefully, there will be more space than anticipated.)

At some point, someone will need to sort through every item in the house and decide what to keep, sell, donate or discard. Individuals who are moving generally have five options for their material possessions:

1. Take it with them to their new living accommodation
2. Give it to a family member
3. Donate it
4. Sell it
5. Throw it away

Time certainly is not on anyone's side and many are left wondering how this is ever going to get done. Read on, because help is available!

Effectively Packing It Up

Sorting and packing possessions is physically, mentally and emotionally demanding. Rochelle "Rocky" Welkowitz, founder of Transition Solutions for Seniors, offers services that assist individuals in moving. These services include organizing and implementing the move, assisting with sorting items, disposing of or donating unwanted items, and unpacking and arranging the new home. She can even prepare the home for sale and sell it.

Transition Solutions for Seniors can develop detailed floor plans for fitting desired possessions into the new residence. Rocky's personalized services allow individuals to walk out of their homes and right into another. Transition Solutions for Seniors, LLC can be reached at 615-6507.

Sell It at Auction

Auctions of homes and household goods are commonplace in Lancaster County. They may generate a crowd that could range anywhere from 10 to several hundred. The size of the crowd often depends on what is being sold at the auction. Unfortunately, auction crowds have become smaller over the years due in part to their increasing frequency and decreasing average content. Internet auctions have drawn heavily from the turnout that would otherwise have come to a local auction site or event.

Shaub Enterprises, Inc., a well-known local auctioneer, offers a range of services that begins with a free consultation. If a family decides to hold an auction, Shaub Enterprises will help determine whether the auction should be held at the home or at an auction facility. As a part of its comprehensive service, Shaub's will accumulate personal items for sale, pack for removal to the auction site, appraise items (if necessary), dispose of trash, donate or discard unwanted items and clean the home.

The timeframe for preparing for an auction can vary based on the quantity of items being sold and whether the auction is held at home or an auction facility. Shaub Enterprises can generally complete the process in two to six weeks and the seller can receive his or her proceeds within two weeks of concluding the auction.

Traditionally, items that generate the most interest include antiques, fine art, collectibles, property, household goods, consumables, office supplies, furniture, computers and real estate. Generally, auctioneers will not ask that items hold a minimum value, so anything ranging from pots and pans to the property itself can potentially sell at auction. Shaub Enterprises, Inc. can be reached at 464-3541.

Selling Items on eBay

Most individuals are familiar

with traditional auction services. However, many are unaware of a local business that has the ability to reach millions. Auction Inn is a service that will place your items on eBay. Nationwide, it is estimated that more than 128 million users visit eBay, meaning that far more individuals are exposed to the items being sold. Auction Inn not only offers a great service to individuals who are looking to sell some items, but it is a social-enterprise company that supports the local community. Locally, it operates a job-training program for at-risk youth in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club.

Auction Inn's services begin with gathering items from the home and conclude by mailing a check to the consignor at the conclusion of the auction. Specialists collect the items to be sold and take responsibility for researching their value and posting detailed pictures and information on eBay. Experts place each item in an appropriate category to ensure maximum exposure and also handle communication with potential buyers. Auction Inn also ensures that items are shipped to buyers. A commission ranging from 15 to 39 percent is the payment that Auction Inn earns for its services.

Items may include but are not limited to antiques, cameras, musical instruments, collectibles, accessories, books and toys. (Things that sell easily on eBay are items that are inexpensive to ship.) Auction

Inn prefers items that are valued at \$50 or more. Auction Inn offers a price-protection package for \$19.99 at the onset of service. This allows the company to set a minimum price they will accept; the item will not be sold unless it receives a bid for that price. Items placed for auction start at \$9.99 and sell to the highest bidder at the end of a predetermined bidding period. E-mail links for the auction will be sent to the seller so he or she can closely follow the auction online. Auction Inn can be reached at 509-6592.

When considering the use of any of these services, it is important that you contact them well in advance to discuss your options. I hope this information will be helpful in making a transition to a new home. ❖



Jessica A. Pavelko, a lifelong Lancaster resident and senior consulting specialist, launched Pavelko Senior Consulting Services, LLC (PSCS) in 2006. The business takes a unique personal and professional interest in seniors and their

families by assisting them in making certain all of the resources are being utilized that best meet an individual's needs. PSCS acts as an advocate and navigator for seniors, and helps them and their family members make wise decisions regarding the care that they desire and deserve. For more information, contact PSCS at 717-517-8871, e-mail at info@pavelko.org or visit www.pavelko.org.