



Rick Kintzel/The Intelligencer

Kyle and Cara Scott of Warrington sit with some of the used toys they've refurbished and will give to needy children.

Giving toys a second chance at pleasing needy children

BY LINDSAY REDDING
THE INTELLIGENCER

HOMETOWN HEROES

Kyle and Cara Scott of Warrington have just started a new chapter of Second Chance Toys, a nonprofit organization begun in New Jersey a few months ago.

The idea of Second Chance Toys is to benefit the environment while also helping needy children.

When children grow out of their plastic toys, parents often throw them out, even when they're still in good condition. Instead of letting these non-biodegradable items clog landfills, Second Chance Toys will clean and sanitize them and distribute them to other children.

"I think what's different about Second Chance Toys is that you get to do both at the same time — benefit the environment while helping children," said Cara, a 14-year-old freshman at George School.

The organization was started over the summer by another high school student in New

Jersey. Seeing the impact it was having in the Garden State, the Scotts decided to get involved and spread the operation to Pennsylvania.

The brother-sister team donated their first batch of toys in December to a Head Start facility in Morrisville. There they were able to deliver more than 50 toys to children between ages 3 and 5.

The two were glad to meet the children who would take home the toys.

"In my opinion, that's the most rewarding part of the whole thing," Cara said. "It's rewarding to see the looks on their faces when you give them a toy."

"You can't see the benefit of the environment right away, but when you hand a needy kid a toy, it's obvious that what you did had an effect on them," said Kyle, a 16-year-old junior at George School. "The younger generations have to

step up and do something about environmental problems."

Kyle and Cara gathered the toys from around Bucks County by asking friends and family and checking out yard sales and items left for trash pickup. They sanitized the toys using pressure washers, isopropyl alcohol and soap and water, to get them looking shiny and new, and affixed a Second Chance Toys sticker on each.

The Head Start donation was only their first; the Scotts are looking for more toys, organizations to donate them to, and other volunteers to join their mission.

"This is just the beginning," Kyle said.

Anyone with plastic toys in good condition is invited to contact Second Chance Toys. Information: www.secondchancetoys.org or craigoscott@aol.com.

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