

TRASH or STASH NO MORE!

Beginning in July 2008 the *Smead Discovery Center Staff and Volunteer Karis Tzeng began some "trail-blazing" to explore and/or identify creative ways to deal with NUIs (non-useful items) that are not easily donated, recycled or re-purposed. We say "trailblazing" because mainstream paradigms don't exist to sustainably recycle broken plastic toys or broken microscopes or laminated paper or a lot of other NUI's. The results of less than a year of work are the following:

571.00 lbs. **KEPT OUT OF A LANDFILL**
\$2535.00 **IN SAVINGS**
2.0 **PARTNERSHIPS W/LOCAL & REGIONAL GROUPS**

KEPT FROM THE LANDFILL:

- 137 lbs. of paper recycled or made into paper mache enrichment toys for our wild animals
- 20 lbs. of gently worn and non-scientific toys and crafts donated to the local Headstart
- 11.5 lbs. of plastic toys donated to Toy Lab for making into new toys (<http://www.happeninc.com/services/faq.html>)
- 70 lbs. of coffee grounds, animal food and lunch waste vermicomposted
- 120 lbs. of corn cob vacuumed from the floor around our dino dig and composted
- 213 lbs. of old letterhead and other unwanted paper from various departments used in crafts
SAVINGS from not buying new paper: \$800.00

WHAT WE FIXED:

- 2 wooden puzzles and 1 wooden game refurbished by staff
SAVINGS from repairing and not buying new: \$100.0
- Made new puzzle pegs from dowels for 3 puzzles
SAVINGS from repairing and not buying new: \$60.00
- 3 books rebound
SAVINGS from repairing and not buying new: \$60.00
- 6 chairs, 1 bookshelf repaired and 1 preschool activity table repaired
SAVINGS from repairing and not buying new: \$1350.00
- Made our own crayons by recycling old crayon bits
SAVINGS from not buying new crayons: \$80.00
- Reused minimum of 20 feet of Velcro
SAVINGS from not buying new Velcro: \$25.00

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Goat hooves and feathers from Touch Wall composted
- 1 bag of dress-up clothes turned into rag rugs by rug hookers in Perry, Ohio
- 1 bag of felt scraps turned into health-related crafts
- 3 worn cardboard puzzles turned into magnet crafts and magnets for holding paper at the rubbing table

*The Smead Discovery Center is the hands-on portion of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History