

# Giving Away the Store – Without the Store

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Jamie Riley with some of her wares

Photos Chris Lavin

The idea of swapping belongings has deep roots. People used to trade services or goods all the time. It used to be called bartering. Give and take. Now with a plethora of goods and in an age where landfills are teeming, the idea of actually reusing other people's goods might be starting to gain a resurgence. The Patagonia catalog featured a story about free swap with a deft thought about how the "thrill of shopping, of buying, simply can't hold a candle to such a primal sensation" of getting something for free. How true.

"It's what we should do," Riley said. "A lot of this stuff is simply beautiful. It would be a shame for it to go to waste." She looked at a beaten-up baby's all-wood high-chair with a removable tray that was left over from a previous swap. It looked like oak. One could envision children gone before, and children to come.

"I need to sand that down," she said.

It will be gorgeous.



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