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An Advertising Feature

I Love My Job!

My name is MaryLynn St.Germaine and I own Organization by Design, LLC. After 15 years in the nonprofit sector, I began a career as a professional organizer to help people create structure out of the chaos that has taken over their home or office.

Until about five years ago I did not even know "Professional Organizing" was a career. When a friend of mine asked me what my dream job was I said, "Organizing people's stuff. But it's not like that is an actual JOB!" She sent me an article a few months later about a woman who did just that for homes and businesses in Texas. Now it is a multibillion-dollar industry with over 4,000 organizers nationwide. There is even a local group called TPro (Tucson Professional Organizers) boasting nearly 20 professional organizers in Tucson.

I think I was born organizing. By age eight I had my own business cards (they were pink and shimmery) for my business "The Clean Way." Now, granted—I was cleaning my mom's bathtub for 75 cents and organizing her bookshelves for a dime, but I was a young entrepreneur. I truly believe this is my "right livelihood."

I think clients fear the organizer is going to come in and make them throw away all of their precious belongings. That is not true. But by shifting our line of thinking and realizing that legacies are in people—not in stuff—we are more likely to hold on to what is truly meaningful to us and let go of the rest. Together, the client and I work to maximize their efficiency and increase productivity by reducing clutter and simplifying their space.

Everyone can learn to be organized—it's just a matter of learning and practicing good habits. The techniques, once learned, foster a clutter-free environment that we will help to create and maintain. It is my job to help them achieve that . . . and I LOVE my job!

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You've heard a little about this job—now tell us about yours! Each week, this page will feature someone employed at a Tucson-based company or location. Get a chance to have your name and photo in the paper: e-mail kamin@tucson.com to submit a photo of yourself and 300 words or less on why you love your job.