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## Donating your wedding flowers

It seems like such a shame to toss your wedding flowers once the party is done, but with a little creative planning you won't have to throw them out. Area hospitals and nursing homes will gladly take your bouquets, centerpieces and any other arrangements to help spruce up their space.

Laura Mullen of Laura Mullen Event Design helps brides throw sustainable weddings and often recommends flowers be reused in this way. Start calling about one month in advance, she says, to find a place that is willing to take them. Confirm the drop-off a week before the wedding and make sure to get the name of a contact person who will be there when the flowers arrive.

"Unless you own the vases, you need a plan for how you're going to break down the arrangements at the end of the night. You'll need tissue paper, string, boxes and a vessel like a bucket to keep the flowers in," Mullen says. While it takes a little care to pull apart your centerpieces so that you can return the vases, it doesn't take a long time. If you're working with a wedding planner, he or she can take care of this detail. Otherwise, Mullen suggests assigning the chore to one of your favorite relative—and have him or her deliver the flowers the next morning.

[lauramullenevents.com](http://lauramullenevents.com)