

File the Pile can help organize years' worth of family photos and memorabilia.

Inspired Efficiency

Kim Wilhelm finds purpose in professional organizing

by Renee Roberson
photography by Ken Noblezada



It was while in the middle of tackling organization projects within her own home that Huntersville resident Kim Wilhelm had an epiphany about a new kind of business she wanted to start.

Wilhelm admits she was always working to implement efficient filing systems in her career in the financial services industry and enjoyed organizing materials for clients and co-workers. A job with Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo) brought her to North Carolina in 2002, but after a few years she took a job as an analyst at a wealth management company. She worked her way up to becoming Chief Investment Officer and then decided to explore other opportunities after 13 years when the company was sold to another firm.

While taking time off after leaving the wealth management company, she began focusing on organizing items around her house, because it was something she had a passion for but never had the time to do. She thought to herself, “When I go on to my next financial job, I’m not going to have much time to organize.” This, she says, is when a lightbulb went off in her head.

“I started researching and discovered there was a whole industry around organization,” she says.

Putting the paper aside

Wilhelm started File the Pile, a professional organizing service specializing in paper management, organization and decluttering

in June 2019. She is a member of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals (NAPO) and strives to serve clients with integrity, competence, and objectivity.

She has volunteered her time with Our Towns Habitat for Humanity (now Habitat for Humanity/Charlotte), where she organized the home building product inventory. She also helped streamline the organization’s internal spreadsheets used to purchase building materials and supplies in bulk. This work helped her solidify her purpose in starting File the Pile.

While she does offer a variety of home organizing services such as pantries, closets, photos, etc., Wilhelm feels paper management and decluttering are her greatest strengths, given her financial background. This includes junk mail, financial statements, bills, tax records, health records, magazines, newspapers, product instructions, etc.

“I come into homes and offices and I see the piles,” she says, noting her company motto is “Clear the Clutter, Clear Your Mind.”

“I customize the process and product solutions for each client. If they prefer digital files, I have a portable scanner and can scan documents to their computer. I utilize sorting bins and a streamlined process to quickly determine whether to save, shred or recycle various papers. I then create an efficient filing system that is easy to maintain on an ongoing basis.”

She knows how stressful gathering year-end tax documents can

Kim Wilhelm founded File the Pile after years of working in the financial services industry.



be for individuals and small business owners and contractors. For example, she can help business owners organize their expenses by scanning receipts, categorizing them into tax deduction categories, and then coordinating with CPAs to upload the receipts efficiently in QuickBooks.

How can a professional organizer help?

Wilhelm says she's noticed in her line of work that once clients receive her help getting started, they can often continue projects on their own. "There are various ways I help clients with the process," she says. "I have checklists for guidance as well as laminated cards I share with clients. These provide questions they can ask themselves—*Does this bring you joy? Do you want to burden your family with this in your absence? Can it be replaced?* Once I am able to interact with clients, in my experience, the decluttering decisions aren't that hard."

"I love seeing the end result," she says. "Once we've organized and decluttered items, I see clients that are happy. They are clearing their minds and able to focus more energy on the things they enjoy." ■

Un-Deck the Halls

Wilhelm recommends using any time off you have during the holidays to organize Christmas decorations. Sort through all of your lights and identify which ones work and don't work. Replace burned out bulbs. Store decorations in containers or bins that are clearly labeled so they will be easy to find next year.



File the Pile
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