



The Upcycled Robot Family on NH Route 156

### The Upcycled Sculptures on 156

Steve Soreff, MD

On Monday, May 16, 2022, a family of robots appeared New Hampshire Route 156 in the vicinity of White Cove Road. They had replaced [Big Bird](#) there. All have been produced by the creative and talented [Julie Friend-Gray](#). She has been noted in the Forum as a creative genius for her amazing craftsmanship. That was prompted by her "dancing chairs" in the field next to the old Cove house farther north on Route 156 from the robots that appeared in November 2015. These were 11 brightly painted chairs on mounts that looked like they had been either posed or dancing.

With the new creations, this reporter sat down with Julie on the afternoon of Saturday, May 21, 2022, to find out more about them. She was quick to inform me that these were called upcycled sculptures. Here is the [Habitat for Humanity](#) definition of upcycled creations. "It's a process many refer to as 'upcycling,' which [UpcycleThat.com](#) defines this way: "The act of taking something no longer in use and giving it a second life and new function. In doing so, the finished product often becomes more practical, valuable and beautiful than what it previously was." She described the new three pieces as robots. The Big Chicken was worn and falling apart. It has gone to its recycled home. She sees her work "as it is fun to create". There were three robots- a female, a male, and a kid.

Since she was seated next to the female, we talked about her first. The genesis of this creation was when their family's washing machine died. Its drum became the robot's belly which sported parts of the washer's motor. How many different household items which

make up this robot, can you recognize? There is a colander and a street light amongst others. She noted that the robots were made from stainless steel items. Therefore, the construction required nuts, bolts, screws, and wires and were not welded



Julie Friend-Gray and her female robot

Next she talked about the male robot. Again, he began with an old washing machine.



The male robot

Finally, there was the kid built around the mail boxes. Julie said her grandson, Washburn, came up with idea. It features a jet pack.



The kid robot with a jet pack

Enjoy then as you drive by. Maybe they will wave?