



Items for the Junior League garage sale in the warehouse before the sale (left); Stephanie Locke and Lisa Stiles of Junior League of Plano (right) photos by Chris Fritchie

Trinkets to Treasures

By Bettina Restrepo Williford

RUMMAGE SALES have a certain wonder about them. What's for sale? What treasures will I find? What bargains will I not be able to live without? If the recession has put a damper on your shopping, don't despair; the Junior League of Plano has the solution with its annual Trinkets to Treasures Rummage Sale.

The sale, now in its 20th year, is the largest such event in Collin County, offering an estimated \$50,000 in merchandise. This year's sale will take place on April 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Plano Convention Centre. Some of the proceeds from the sale will go to Frisco Family Services Center (and other organizations in Collin County). It's not so

surprising considering that, in addition to Plano residents, many women from Frisco and the rest of Collin County are a part of the organization, too. They are volunteering hundreds of hours in hopes that many of their friends and neighbors will come and shop for a good cause.

For the best deals, organizers recommend that shoppers come early. In previous years bargain hunters have arrived at 5 a.m. and camped out, waiting for the doors to open. One JLP member says, "You won't believe how many people are banging at the door at opening. Just be prepared. They run when the doors are opened."

Junior League members and their families and friends fill the floor of the main exhibition hall with gently used items from their homes. The items range from furniture and home décor to baby rockers and exercise equipment. If you are looking for a prom dress or summer clothes for the kids, you are in luck. There are plenty of selections in various sizes – all at rock bottom prices. You might even find a few designer items, although you have to act quickly if you want to make them yours. How long will a pair of gold Ferragamo heels last when they are priced at \$15?

If you are looking for furniture or televisions, be sure to bring a truck and some help. While the Junior League volunteers may be strong, they are not a delivery service and items cannot be held at the Plano Centre past 2 p.m. on April 4.

Right before noon shoppers will be asked to clear out of the Centre. When they are allowed back in a short time later, all merchandise will be half off the marked price. At 1 p.m., the remaining merchandise goes on sale for \$5 a bag (JLP will provide you with the bag). It's

a great way to “clean up” at low, low prices. When the sale ends, all the leftover merchandise is donated to local charities.

GOOD FOR ALL FAMILIES

The idea behind the rummage sale is two-fold: to sponsor a community event that provides low cost goods to families of Collin County, and to use the proceeds from that event to support Junior League projects such as Samaritan Inn, The Turning Point and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of North Texas as well as Frisco Family Services Center.

Many of the people who shop at the rummage sale have been given shopping certificates from the Junior League. These certificates were donated by local businesses, individuals and League members to enable disadvantaged families a chance to get high quality merchandise at a low cost. Many families today are struggling with job loss, a reduced income or even the foreclosure of their home; for them, the sale is coming just in time. The certificates they receive

help close the gap between what they need and what they can afford. Last year JLP gave over \$8000 in shopping certificates to organizations across Collin County to disperse among their clientele.

Last year JLP gave over \$8000 in shopping certificates to organizations across Collin County to disperse among their clientele.

According to Nicole Bursey, Client Services Director at Frisco Family Services, “The Shopping passes allow families to obtain much-needed items. Due to the economic downturn, I am sure that many families will use them to purchase clothing, shoes, household and other items. These passes can be a

great help to families.”

EXTRA STUFF

The JLP will provide helpful activities for families who attend the rummage sale, in addition to the quality merchandise. Health screening services and a job bank have been invited to participate at the community event. It's just an additional value for attendees beyond finding kids' clothes and sporting equipment at low prices.

For the past three months more than 100 women have worked in the warehouse sorting donations. The volunteers are anxious for the doors to open and see how this year's Trinkets to Treasures helps the community by meeting the needs of its residents.

Doors open at 8 a.m. on April 4 and close at 2 p.m. The Plano Convention Centre is located at 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway just off Interstate 75. There is a \$5 entrance fee.

Bettina Restrepo Williford is a freelance writer who lives in Frisco and is a member of the Junior League of Plano.



Frisco Women's League is delighted to invite you to our 4th Annual



Mother & Daughter Tea

Saturday, May 9, 2009
at the Westin Stonebriar

Mothers, daughters, and friends of all ages are invited to spend an afternoon making “Memories With Mom,” at a delicious luncheon & style show, featuring a silent auction, children’s crafts and fun raffles.

Join Honorary Chair **Val Maso**, “First Lady of Frisco” & Mistress of Ceremonies **Janet St. James** of WFAA Channel 8 as we raise money to help Heroes For Children support pediatric cancer patients and their families.
Meet Miss Teen Texas 2008 **Sydney Capello!**

Tickets are \$35 for Ladies / \$15 for Girls aged 3 - 12, and must be purchased in advance.
FWL is grateful to our event partners:



Visit www.FWLTea.org for tickets and information.