

**"DO NOT WITHHOLD GOOD FROM THOSE TO WHOM IT IS DUE, WHEN IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO DO IT."**

**Proverbs 3:27**



*"For it is in giving that we receive."*

*St. Francis of Assisi*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Every November, excitement builds as the date for the annual bazaar approaches; an event that raises extra money for the purchase of extraordinary gifts for the residents. In fact, it has become such a tradition that community members have written the date on their calendar each year as a reminder to make a contribution; all because they are assured that every dollar will be spent on making Christmas a wonderful time for a generation of people known as "givers".

Thus, throughout the year, it is a common occurrence for people to drop off items, knowing they will be stored just for the bazaar. Overtime, the tradition has become so well known that the phone starts to ring well in advance with callers stating, "I have found some items that have been in closets for years and thought you might be able to use them for your bazaar. It is time for someone to get good out of these things!"

As a result, such a variety of items are brought in that beautiful displays can be arranged on tables that create an atmosphere for buying. As the shopper arrives, he/she will not only have choices that fit into a budget, but also get a chance to place bids on more costly items that are in silent auctions.

Consequently, the afternoon before the big day is so entertaining for the residents that it is like watching a movie. You will find them sitting in their wheelchairs peering into the rooms as the volunteers work in teams pricing and setting up displays on the tables. Once the table is full, it is then moved into a staging area ready to be quickly placed into position by 9:00 AM sharp the following morning. If all the items are first sorted, a marketing scheme will soon become apparent; an important process that establishes a festive atmosphere that enhances the shopping experience.

Then as the tables are placed in position the morning of the event, being aware of your highest traffic areas will allow you to place your pricier items in full view; just like a retail business. It also offers impact, and tantalizes the buyers to move throughout the bazaar area.

## **ACTIVITY: Christmas Bazaar**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- \*\*A space for storing items throughout the year labeled, "Bazaar".***
- \*\*Transportation for picking up items from community members (Tables, Chairs, or boxes of items)***
- \*\*Volunteers for set up the day prior and on Bazaar Day***
- \*\*Scraps of festive material or paper for using as part of displays***
- \*\*Price tags, markers, scissors, tape***
- \*\*Cloths for covering empty tables to enhance display***
- \*\*Either live piano player or taped music for mood***
- \*\*Cash box with ample amount of starting change***
- \*\*Plastic bag/boxes for using when sale is completed***
- \*\*Volunteers as cashiers and others for working outside tables for purpose of regrouping and consolidating items as bazaar progresses and items are sold. Some volunteers assist in carrying items for shoppers.***
- \*\*Tables designated for silent auction items/paper for writing bids near object (Time listed when bidding will close.)***
- \*\*Spread the word about auction through word of mouth (residents' family members or posting a sign if facility management will allow). Some local retail owners will be desirous of participating. Each year, news about your bazaar will grow, causing it to bring in more funds for residents' gifts. Don't be shy about inviting local church and community groups to shop.***

**IMPORTANT: BE SURE YOU TO SEND THANK YOU NOTES TO EVERY VOLUNTEER AND INDIVIDUAL THAT CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR BAZAAR! IF YOU HAVE SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHS, SEND ONE ALONG. THEN IF YOU REALLY WANT TO CREATE JOY, MAIL A PHOTOGRAPH OF A RESIDENT RECEIVING A GIFT AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AS A FOLLOW UP NOTE! UNBELIEVABLE REACTION! TAKES TIME, BUT WORTH EVERY MINUTE! THIS IS HOW AN EVENT GROWS!**

**SEE EXAMPLE BELOW OF POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT TO OBTAIN DONATIONS AND SHOPPERS**



*TIS THE SEASON.....*

# **FOR THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT \_\_\_\_\_**



**WHAT:** CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU CAN HELP BY:** DONATING GIFT CERTIFICATES, CASH, CRAFTS, NEEDLEWORK, QUILTS, ART WORK, SERVICES, OR DECORATIVE ITEMS.

**DONATIONS WILL BE SOLD OR AUCTIONED OFF AT THE NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> BAZAAR WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING DIRECTLY TO THE PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE RESIDENTS.**

*You are also welcome to shop at the bazaar on \_\_\_\_\_*

**CONTACT:** (Name), ACTIVITY DIRECTOR @ (facility name)



# ITEMS FOR SALE



**AFGHANS**



**DECORATIONS**



# BAKED GOODS



# DISH SETS





**ASSORTED  
ITEMS**



**ANIMAL**

**DOLLS**



**FURNITURE**



**KNITTED  
BOOTIES**





# SILENT AUCTION







**Residents' puzzles that were framed and signed by them.**



***DON'T FORGET YOUR DONATION JAR!***

***GOAL WAS REACHED!***

# REQUEST FROM RESIDENTS

Throughout this collection, it is often mentioned that residents grieve over their inability to make contributions to others in society as they have done all their lives. Therefore, when they hear about an individual in the winter season of life that is still active and functioning alone, it thrills them beyond measure. Instead of harboring feelings of jealousy or gloom, wishing to be wearing her shoes, they applaud loudly and frequently inquire after the individual's welfare. In fact, they choose to joyously journey right along with the fortunate person from afar; living vicariously through her actions.

Thus, as a volunteer reader in a local nursing home, the writer has experienced this attitude first hand from the residents repeatedly regarding the independence of her own 95 year old mother. When they hear about her picking strawberries at age 95 every spring, without fail, they get almost giddy with pride; especially when she sends in some as a treat for them.

# PICK UNTIL YOU DROP!





Then, when they heard the writer's mother was getting ready to stay up all night baking pastries for her church bazaar to be held a couple of days after the one scheduled for their facility, a special request was submitted with great pride through an ambassador stating, "We would like you to feature your mother's work as a part of the "Gramme Rocks" collection. Not only was it a generous gesture that demonstrates the spirit under which they operate daily, it sweetly plucked at the writer's mother's heart strings.

Therefore, the day before the church bazaar, before entering the kitchen belonging to a very busy mother, the mouth watering aromas of freshly baked goods were already wafting their way out into the garage as a way of warning the writer that her feet were getting ready to enter into a high energy area. Looking back, words would not be available to describe the all night bake off about to unfold in Pearl's kitchen. Operating as her volunteer assistant, hands were set into motion upon entering the "EVERYTHING MUST BE DELIVERED BY 9:00 O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING.....FRESH, WARM, AND COMPLETED TO PERFECTION" zone.



**GO  
PEARL!**



Consequently, timers were set for 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 (AS IN AM) complying with the handling of her yeast recipes; meaning:

*Cinnamon  
Rolls (6 ½  
dozen)*





*Fresh Apple Turnovers (5 dozen)*



*Glazed Donuts (5 dozen)*





*Assorted Whole  
Pies (Special  
Orders)*



*Oat  
Meal/Raisin/Chocolate  
Chip Cookies (4  
dozen)*

**APPLAUSE PLEASE!** Having finished on time, smelling like a bakery on wheels, the loaded car and two tired elves sped down the street toward bazaar headquarters. As the car approached, anxious shoppers were already gathering at the entrance waiting for the doors to open.



Seated at a table in the corner, the writer's 95 year old mother, Pearl, contentedly watched as the excitement of the day unfolded. After all, this special event had been an entire year in the making. Long before the stage was set for making pastries, her hands had joined ladies aid members in patiently making quilts one stitch at a time. Folks, my mother's hands had touched almost every quilt hanging in site!



**95 YEAR OLD PEARL**



**SERVANT OF GOD!**