

## **Loudoun Alternative Gift Fair Enriches the Community One Life at a Time**

In the last three years, the St. Gabriel's Alternative Gift Fair has raised over \$47,000 for local charities. More importantly organizers say, is that the community's spirits have been raised a thousand fold. While it is undeniable that funding is important, enhancing the gift giving season is the true goal of the event. The two day Fair provides a fun & festive venue for shoppers to purchase donations to local charities in honor of friends and colleagues. It's a family friendly environment that emphasizes the true meaning of giving while bringing people together to help our neighbors in need. The AGF also raises awareness for local charities and has become a key outreach event for the non-profit community.

Joe Pillera, Director of Friends of Homeless Animals (FOHA), participated in the AGF for the first time last year and said "The Fair provided a whole new audience for our work as a no kill animal shelter in Loudoun. Not only was it a great fund raiser, we also recruited several new volunteers." Best of all, a loving home was found for dachshund-beagle mix "Trinket" who was rescued by FOHA. "We lost our dog in July and were still sad when I met Joe at the AGF and learned about FOHA", says Fair attendee Pam Butler. "I realized we were ready and adopted a new dog for Christmas."

Leesburg resident, Roberta Comrie, happened into the Alternative Gift Fair while walking through town last year and became totally enamored with the concept. According to Comrie, "not only is this focused on important smaller local charities that are too often overlooked, but they make it so easy to give. I get to write one check and spread it out across as many of these nonprofits as I want. Better yet, Saint Gabriel's is not sharing my address so I am not going to be inundated with a hundred mailings next year. This is great."

These unique gifts come with a beautiful card contributed by a Leesburg artist. Gift ideas include:

- Teachers \$10 speech-hearing screening for a child
- Coworkers \$25 buys basic literacy materials for an adult learner
- Relatives \$50 provides insulin for an uninsured person with diabetes

Susan G. ,a patient at the Loudoun Community Free Clinic, is a diabetic and a direct recipient of the \$50.00 gift that provides insulin to uninsured Loudoun residents. "I cannot describe what it means to my family to have quality health care", says Susan, "Thank You".

Many other gifts are available to support our 2007 Gift Fair charities:

The Arc of Loudoun (LARC)

Continued on next page

Blue Ridge Speech & Hearing Center of Loudoun Co.  
Friends of Homeless Animals  
Friends of Loudoun Mental Health  
Good Shepherd Alliance  
La Voz of Loudoun  
LINK  
Loudoun Cares  
Loudoun Community Free Clinic  
Loudoun Families for Children  
Loudoun Literacy Council  
Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers  
YMCA of Loudoun

**2007 Alternative Gift Fair Dates:**

Saturday, December 1 10am-8pm  
Sunday, December 2 Noon-5pm  
Founders Building  
Corner of Market & King St.  
Historic Downtown Leesburg

**Shop on Line through December 31**

[www.SaintGabriels.net](http://www.SaintGabriels.net)

The Alternative Gift Fair is organized by:  
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church  
14 Cornwall St, NW - office address  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
703-779-3616