

Garage Sale Gal

Hanging out!

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Lynda Hammond

When Deanna and Matt Oase set up their garage sale in Mesa recently they wanted everything to be clean, neat and appealing. And they succeeded. There wasn't a lot of merchandise for sale but the set up was great. What I liked most was the clothing "section". "I didn't want to just have them in boxes with people pawing through them," Deanna told me.

I see that all the time at garage sales-- clothes in boxes, on the ground or hanging from the bottom of an open garage door. It's just easier that way for the seller--I'll admit it, I've done it. But Deanna and Matt put a little thought and effort into their clothing display and came up with a great and ingenious way to show off them off. Clothes were flying off the shelves, er, "chains".

The chain link hanger

They started by placing a step ladder in the driveway and weighing it down so it wouldn't topple over. They attached two metal link chains to the ladder and strung them to a tree. Then each clothes hanger was looped through a link. That made the clothes easy to see and kept them from sliding to the middle like they do when rope is used. "It did keep it organized. I left two links between each item and it really helped keep the clothes from bunching together."

Deanna started her sale with eight 13-gallon trash bags full of clothes and had only a few items left when it was over.

The link chain hanger was impressive on its own but as I chatted with her I discovered Deanna has quite an inspirational story. You see, Deanna was selling a lot of clothing because it no longer fit her-- she dropped 65 pounds after two bouts with breast cancer. Deanna says after she learned she had cancer a second time, she made a decision to eat better and exercise more and the pounds came off.

She's also switching from a marketing to a nursing career. Deanna wants to be a chemotherapy nurse. "I had two really wonderful chemo nurses and I thought I'd like to help others, too."

The kindness of the nurses likely helped Deanna beat the disease--she's done with chemotherapy and is now cancer-free.

PHOTO BY LYNDA HAMMOND): Matt and Deanna Oase stand beside their make-shift clothing

display at their recent garage sale in Mesa. Matt didn't think the clothes would sell. But during the sale "Matt, looked at me and said 'wow, you're clothes are going really fast'," Deanna says.



Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of your treasure in this column!
