

## ***Garage Sale Gal*** **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



***Garage Sale Gal***

### ***Garage sale for homes*** ***Lynda Hammond***

When most of us woke up this morning, chances are we took a hot shower, had our rich coffee and maybe even flipped on the TV news but others can only dream about such luxuries. “The people there have nothing. The house is a shed with no electricity or running water. They have chickens and an outhouse,” says Vicki Latham. Vicki is talking about some residents just to our south in Nuevo Penasco or as most of us knows it, Rocky Point, Mexico. Every year she and other volunteers from her church make the four hour drive to help make life a little better for those less fortunate by building a home for a family in need. It’s a tiny house with a floor, four walls and a roof and each one costs about \$4000 to build.

So, Vicki is trying to help raise some of that money by holding a garage sale.

She’s organizing the sale at Wonderful Mercy Church in Gilbert. They’ve held other fundraisers, such as auctions, but Vicki says they always make more money with garage sales---that’s because garage sales are such a hit in the Valley and there’s no overhead cost associated with them. They usually raise about \$2000 and the rest of the money comes from a mission in California that matches church volunteers with a family in Mexico. All of the money raised pays for supplies needed for constructing the house. “What we build is barely a structure by our standards. There are still no utilities. But to them it’s wonderful.” The Medina family received a home earlier this year thanks to volunteer efforts. They live on just \$100 a month—which supports five children and two adults. The Medinas had lived in a plywood structure with no floor so they’re grateful for their new dwelling. “It’s such a blessing and to see the look on their faces... (Vicki’s voice trails off as she starts crying) ..it’s just such a blessing for them *and* for us.”

Okay, so here’s how you can help—and buy a treasure for yourself at the same time—just go to the huge garage sale tomorrow. The sale will include things we typically see at garage sales—furniture and clothes—and some unusual things too, such as a swamp cooler, silver-plated tea set and a large quilt which will be raffled off.

#### ***Charity Garage Sale***

***Where: Wonderful Mercy Church in Gilbert, 1351 E. Guadalupe, 85234***  
***(Between Lindsay Rd. and Val Vista Dr).***

***When: Tomorrow, Saturday October 25***

***Hours: 7-noon***

***Why: To raise money to build a house for a family near Rocky Point, Mexico***



(Pics provided by Vicki Latham my fav find rocky) (picture here of old structure no people) This is the structure the Medina family of Rocky Point, Mexico lived in before volunteers built them a new place.

(picture with family rocky pt amor) And here, last February, the Medina family poses in front of their tiny new home built by church members from Wonderful Mercy Church in Gilbert.

#### **MY FAVORITE FIND**

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Send us a picture of your favorite find. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

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*Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.*

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