

Garage Sale Gal

Garage Saling for Seniors Lynda Hammond

Rosemarie Friend went to her first garage sale eight years ago and has never slowed down. Two days a week she'll cruise for sales buying up dishes, furniture, TVs, rugs, pillows, lamps, decorative items and oh so much more.

But she doesn't store these things away in her garage—like I often do-- hoping one day to use them. Everything she buys is put to good use--immediately.

The former nurse's aide turned to garage sales when she launched a business. "I was opening my own senior assisted living home and I thought there's gotta be a better way to furnish this than going to department stores," Rosemarie said. She later sold that home and today her business, Chloe's Senior Placement (named after her 9-year-old granddaughter), centers around helping elderly folks find that perfect place to call home.

She also helps the owners of these senior homes open their doors. Investors who are buying up properties and can't resell them are turning the houses—located in residential areas—into licensed senior care homes. Rosemarie enters the picture when the homes are ready for supplies and furniture. The investor gives her \$1000 and off she goes---headed to garage sales to fill up the empty places in the homes. "I always tell the investor 'Do not buy one thing at a store. I can find everything we need at garage sales.' It's a blast. I get paid to shop at garage sales."

I met Rosemarie at a garage sale in Chandler where I was looking for unusual fun things up for grabs and chatting with other "hunters" while she was busy snapping up bargains for another home. This will be the twelfth senior living facility she decorated with garage sale finds. She starts with nothing and ends up with an entire household—kitchen, living room, bathrooms and bedrooms--furnished. She'd already found a TV for \$20, a leather recliner for \$30, an aquarium and a blender and mixer for a few dollars. "With the economy the way it is a lot of people are selling a lot of good stuff cheap. So I can make our homes look like a million bucks. Just think if we had to go buy all that new at stores." The only thing she doesn't buy at a garage sale are mattresses for health reasons.

I asked Rosemarie if it was hard to buy great things at low prices and never use them herself. "No," she said then reminded me it's better to give than to receive. But there is the one time she had a wrestling match with herself over something. "It was an entire set of dishes with an Italian look—plates, bowls, mugs, serving dishes. They were gorgeous. I got the whole set for \$35. But I actually gave those to a friend who was starting over and really needed them more than I did."

Okay, Rosemarie here's a sale you—and anyone else who loves a bargain-- should stop by tomorrow. The money raised goes to help a Valley Boy Scout Troop pay for camping trips and more.

**Boy Scout Troop 653 Sale
Saturday September 24 6:30-1
Central Christian Church
933 N Lindsey Rd.
Mesa 85213**



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Rosemarie Friend buys hundreds of items at garage sales every Friday and Saturday but she doesn't keep any of it for herself.

Talk to the Garage Sale Gal!

Do you have a question or comment about garage or estate bargain sales? Email the Garage Sale Gal: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

Lynda Hammond is the author of the new book, [The Garage Sale Gal's Guide to Making Money Off Your Stuff](#). Check out www.GarageSaleGal.com for details on where to buy the book. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com.

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