

Lynda Hammond **THE GARAGE SALE GAL**



Dog Bite-Neighborhood Sale *Lynda Hammond*

When most of us hold a garage sale we're hoping to clear the clutter and make a few bucks but when residents in a one small neighborhood in Mesa recently held one, they were hoping for a lot more than that. "We know this sale will help us but it's been pure pain. It's been awful," says Cherish Smith.

What's been so traumatic for Cherish and her husband Brett is how the New Year started out for them. It was supposed to be a celebration but just five hours before the start of 2012 they heard a commotion outside their neighbor's house across the street. "We just heard screaming and we knew it was Shiley," says mother, Cherish. Little 5-year-old, Shiley had been attacked by the neighbor's dog. It grabbed onto her leg tripping her and then went for her face. Her father scooped her up and rushed her to the emergency room. The injuries were bad. She had more than 20 stitches to the inside of her mouth, a broken eye socket. She's had two plastic surgeries and more may be needed. And as awful as it sounds, it could've been worse. Doctors say she was just one millimeter away from losing her left eye.

The dog, tested and found to be rabies-free, may've been spooked by fireworks.

It's only been a few weeks and already Shiley is looking and feeling great. But the problem now is all the bills that are rolling in. Brett was just a few hours from his health insurance kicking in and the dog owners have no insurance and are losing their home to foreclosure. That means the Smiths will have to come up with more than \$100,000 to pay the doctor's bills.

So, neighbor and friend, Chris Facio had an idea. "I used to go garage saling all the time so I thought holding one was the easiest and fastest way to make money. And everyone always has stuff they want to get rid of," Chris says.

They received donations of items from friends and family and several houses on the street set up shop to sell their wares for Shiley. "The community has really brought back some light and hope into their lives," says Dana Smith, Shiley's paternal grandmother.

Shiley's other Grandmother Becky Barnes was even selling a car hoping to raise as much money as possible. Residents also sold furniture, games, toys and much more. On Saturday alone they raised more than \$3500. It's a start but they have a long way to go so more fundraisers are in the works including a benefit dinner and more.

If you missed their garage sale and would still like to help you can. A fund has been set up at Desert Schools under the name Shiley Smith.

In the meantime, Cherish says she's grateful to everyone that's given something so far. "I'm extremely grateful for all the donations and love that has come our way. It's really brought back my faith in humanity. Everyone has been so kind when they have stopped by."



(pic provided by Lynda Hammond) Shiley Smith makes an appearance at her recent garage sale in her mother's arms. Doctors think she will make a full recovery.

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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