

City Life Business: Specialty market that works

Unique outlet for vendors, consumers

Lessie Scurry - For the Journal-Constitution

Thursday, March 24, 2005

A business owner has branched out to start the area's only specialty vendor market that opens for business every month.

Susan Wimberly, owner of The Midpoint Limited Group, will open Market at the Works at 10 a.m. March 31 at 711 Trabert Ave.

Wimberly embarked upon the new venture after receiving countless requests from her clients and friends to market and search for specialty items for them.

"I decided, why not open an outlet where creative people can come in and sell their own products?" she said. "Also, people often would want me to find specific items for them. That's how I found out about the vendors."

The market will have between 40 and 50 vendors on hand to offer such items as artwork, handbags, jewelry, antiques, French dinnerware, vintage sweaters and children's clothing.

"This is not a flea market," Wimberly said. "These are items that are made by local artisans with various backgrounds and nations of origin. People will be able to find items here they can't necessarily find at a store."

Prices range from \$55 to \$150 for handbags, \$75 to several thousand dollars for art work, and \$35 to \$500 for jewelry.

Pangaea restaurant will be on site with Vietnamese and Cuban food items available.

The \$3 admission fee is valid for the entire weekend, with portions of the proceeds going to a different charity each month.

The charity for the inaugural weekend is Trinity Community Ministries, a men's transitional facility that also provides food for the homeless.

"I wanted a way not only for me to give back to the community, but for the general public to do so as well," Wimberly said.

Wimberly said the market constantly will be seeking new charities to sponsor and vendors with new creations to sell. The facility also can be rented for special occasions.

During the opening week, operating hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Thereafter, the market will be open Friday through Sunday the first weekend of each month.

For more information, call 404-876-1359 or visit www.attheworks.net.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

> Who: Susan Wimberly, owner

> What: Market at the Works, an upscale specialty market

> Where: 711 Trabert Ave., Atlanta

> Opening: March 31

> Phone: 404-876-1359

> Business goal: "My goal is twofold: to provide vendors with a way to market their work without having the overhead of a store and to provide the public with a new venue to come to and find specialty items."

--- Susan Wimberly, owner