



resident life

Tag Sale Raises Money for Afterschool Program

The residents of **Blue Ridge Commons** in Charlottesville, Virginia have attended many neighborhood activities and celebrations over the years, but this summer marked the first time a flea market was held at the property.

Organized by **AmeriCorps** member **Leslie Channel**, the idea for the flea market, “came from the need to raise a little extra money for an end-of-the-year party at our afterschool program,” explained Channel. Several residents had also expressed an interest in having a community store at which they could shop for various second-hand items without having to travel too far. With this in mind, Channel began to collect donations from residents, friends, University of Virginia professors, former AmeriCorps members, and items from freecycle.org to sell in the bazaar.

She was able to gather items such as TVs, VCRs, clothing, games, books, stuffed animals, backpacks, and other small items.

Channel was delighted that many property residents, as well as people from surrounding neighborhoods, attended the event. The project raised a total of \$230.

Said Channel, “I would have been happy to raise \$50! I had no idea that we would raise so much, but I was very proud of the residents who participated. It was a great way to get folks involved in their community and to interact with new and familiar faces. In fact, the residents were so excited to have a market of their own, they have already asked to have a second flea market!”

Below: The residents of Blue Ridge Commons in Charlottesville, Virginia had an opportunity to hunt for bargains at their first neighborhood flea market held last month.

