

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - AT THE KSL HOTEL & RESORT

Article: Rita Kiron

Christmas Bazaar - It was from May onwards this into it; the time consumed brainstorming and running



Photos: Chiyono Oba

an event that we started preparing year. A lot of preparations went by numerous meetings, around finally paid off.



The day we were waiting for finally arrived - 15 November, Friday. The whole idea for the Christmas Bazaar was to raise funds for the Charities that IWA supports - that is - JARO, The Breast Cancer Support Group of Johor Bahru, Berkat Children's Home, and Palliative Care Association of Johor Bahru. This time at the Bazaar, JARO and the Breast Cancer Support Group had stalls where they sold their products. This helped them to raise funds for their own charities through the sales they did on that day.

There were a total of 15 stalls on the day, three being allotted to IWA. IWA sold freshly baked cakes, cookies which were very kindly donated by some members. There was a stall for toys and books, and also second-hand and new clothes. All of these were donated and collected from many members and their friends.

The other stalls had different variety of consumer goods. One of the vendors had displayed beautiful amber jewellery, another had French wines, and two stalls had many decorative items. Yes, the Korean kimchi stall had a variety of Korean products. There was also some attractive wrap around skirts, and children's sports goods and wear.

The lobby of KSL Hotel was just the right place for our stalls. It accommodated everything very comfortably.

In the morning itself, we had a good flow of people coming into the hotel lobby. We had advertised in various places. A newspaper was carrying news of our event for almost 4 weeks, every Tuesday and Friday. We had distributed many of the attractive posters in various places, like many condos, schools and to a church as well. All this has had a great effect on

the inflow of people from everywhere in Johor Bahru. When they arrived, they eagerly looked at the various stalls and products available. Purchasing started in the morning itself



and that boosted our morale. We went in full swing promoting, coaxing and selling our products. No one let any opportunity to let the customer go away without taking something with her. All of us were in the mode of getting sales and hearing the cash register ringing.

Lunch time came and we were famished and thankfully Nora came with her sandwiches. A short break and everyone was happily chatting and talking of the sales.

Visitors were coming in all the time after lunch too. They also did some shopping for their Christmas. Cakes and cookies were the first to sell-out. The rest made pretty good sales as well.

Come 4.00 pm we started packing up. We came with many things and packed back much lesser stuff. Everyone helped to pack up. By then, we were quite tired and at the same time thrilled. Thrill was for the finale of this event and for the collections we had made for the day.

It was a fulfilling day. A sense of achievement ran through our minds. A sense of pride, that we had done well for a good cause. We will bring a smile to someone, somehow, somewhere, with our passion to serve.