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Central Coast-based animal rescue group starts eBay store to raise funds

By Ramona Turner

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MOSS LANDING "" Rebecca Dmytryk is hoping that her new eBay store will help people find unique treasures for themselves or loved ones, while boosting donations to her nonprofit wildlife rescue organization.

On Nov. 24, she launched http://shop.ebay.com:80/wildrescueca/m.html?_dmd=1 to help fund programs offered by WildRescue. The site features collectibles, including decorative plates, gift certificates and jewelry, donated by supporters. Bidding on the items starts at between \$.99 and \$200. Items that don't sell during the seven-day bidding period will be reposted, she said.

"Everyone has something they want to get rid of," said Dmytryk. "In this economy, this is a way for people to still be able to help and get rid of something that's taking space in their house. Buyers get something of value, and the organization gets a nice chunk of change. It will make a difference to us. One man's junk is another man's treasure. It's fantastic."

One popular set that ended today were a pair of vintage enamel flower brooches that had more than 20 bids and the price up to about \$20.

"My favorite item, as with other items on the site you can't find anywhere, is an India pendant worth over \$150," Dmytryk said. "It's over 70 years old. It's heavy. It's gorgeous. You can just feel the vibes."

The starting bid on the pendant was \$200. On Monday, one person was watching this item. No one had bid on it yet.

San Jose-based eBay, an Internet auction house that allows vendors to sell their wares for a small fee, waives that fee for nonprofits that sell items on the popular Web site. Basically, charitable organizations signed up under eBay's Give Works program are charged the fee, which is given back.

The Web site features more than 17,300 nonprofits that have raised about \$150 million since in 2003, the company said. Those other nonprofits benefitting from eBay's free auction set up include the American Cancer Society, Goodwill Industries, American Red Cross, Wounded Warrior Project, World Bicycle Relief and A Dog's Life Rescue.

"It's a great thing that eBay's doing," Dmytryk said.

Dmytryk started WildRescue in 2000 with the hopes of saving the lives of injured wildlife.

"We're paramedics for wildlife," she said. "That's what we do. We take animals to the hospital."

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WildRescue rescues all types of native animals, including birds, snakes, raccoons and deer. The organization does not deal with sea mammals, as there already are organizations in the area that do that, Dmytryk said.

While WildRescue is volunteer based, donations are needed to help volunteers from San Francisco to Los Angeles do what they do, she said.

Their 24-hour hotline, that fields thousands of reports of injured animals statewide, costs \$1,200 to operate annually, she said. Plus, there's the wear and tear on her vehicle to retrieve injured animals, too. Currently, Dmytryk has high mileage on her vehicle, and it is breaking down, she added. Right now, WildRescue is in the market to buy a \$22,000 hybrid sport utility vehicle to serve as their new wildlife ambulance, she said.

"It's easy to get a \$6,000 van, but what are you doing to the environment?" she said.

As for the WildRescue eBay store, while 31 items were posted on the site Monday, Dmytryk promises more will be posted soon. Future items up for auction will include gift certificates to restaurants and spa.

For information on donating items for the auction, call 429-2323 or visit www.wildrescue.org.

For information on buying an item in the auction, call 429-2323 or visit www.wildrescue.org. To participate in an auction, visit <http://www.ebay.com>. #WildRescueItemsNext1_110909

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