

This year, this event raised over \$58,000 for local and global missions!!!

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How do you even start organizing such a feat? Debbie Friend, the organizer! She would be embarrassed if I even mentioned her name, but it is a must!

How do you get the treasures to sell? I did refer to it as stuff, but was quickly corrected; they are treasures. The local community donated their treasures that they no longer needed. That is an unimaginable amount of treasures donated to raise \$58,000.

Did I say, volunteers? An incredible 208 volunteers donated 4,544 hours of service. For two weeks, they worked tirelessly—sorting, tagging, lifting, organizing, and serving with joyful hearts. 50% of these volunteers do not attend Our Saviours, but come because they want to make a difference.

A special shoutout to our Baby Boomer Volunteers, who made up 80% of those who showed up to serve (those born between 1946 and 1964). Their dedication, work ethic, generosity, and willingness to serve are an inspiration.

An example of this person is Lorraine. I introduced myself on the last day. This superhero showed up every day, working her tail off, doing the heavy lifting, tough grunt work. I wish I had her strength and energy. She came at a friend's invitation. What a rock star! 💪
She is among the many serving. They come because they believe in community and in helping others. I do think the yummy meals Lyn Hamilton prepared all week brought them back for more! 🍽️

I have to give a special shoutout to the Okel family—including the dedicated Linda Collins, mother of Kelly Okel—who shows up in force every single year. The videos they created to advertise this event are so fun!!! B.J. may very well be the greatest organizer of all time, and the entire family embodies the spirit of service that makes this event possible. 😊
And to the countless volunteers who gave their time, energy, muscles, smiles, and servant hearts day after day—thank you. There are far too many of you to name, and I'm certain I'd leave someone out, but please know that your efforts did not go unnoticed. This event succeeds because of people like you. 🍷

Our Saviour's also had a group of teenage boys from Slovakia visiting the U.S. through the mission program, hosted by members of the church. They generously dedicated their time to lifting, carrying, and helping wherever needed. We definitely appreciated those extra muscles! We also had youth from all grades, and even Scouts showed up. I do think this group enjoyed the concessions the most.

Here is the super cool, heartwarming part: This sale doesn't just raise money for missions—it also helps families in the community. At 6:30 a.m. on opening day, I spotted a mother and her two daughters sitting in chairs, ready and waiting. I couldn't help but wonder what time they arrived to be first in line. By the time the doors opened at 8:00 a.m., the line stretched around the corner. Hundreds of people were ready for the big day. This sale doesn't just raise money for missions—it also helps families on tight budgets. The prices are low, and the treasures are plentiful. For example, you can fill a 13-gallon garbage bag with clothes until it's almost bursting for just \$30. On Saturday, it's half price. What?

Oh, did I mention concessions? (Yes, Haiti Scholars was in charge!) Thank you to all who donated food, baked goods, or volunteered. 🍪

Families were ecstatic when they could feed their family of four a meal for just \$20. Cheapest meal deals in town. All profits from concession sales went towards the Mega Garage Sale's profits.

Not only did the sale of items benefit local families, but they also benefited our mission families in Mozambique, Haiti, Uganda, and Slovakia. In the last hour of the ½-day sale, several people from the Haiti Scholars team set out to fill those bags with clothes for children and families in Haiti. We were able to get 10 bags of clothes, including bras, underwear, socks, and nice shirts, dresses, and pants (in Haiti, people dress nicely). Pastor Valourt was overwhelmed with all we were collecting. And yes, shoes, shoes, and more shoes. We can't wait to ship those items over at the end of the summer.

In a nutshell, this garage sale is a tapestry woven together in love, generosity, time, and hope. It truly exemplifies a community coming together to make a difference in this world. Thank you to Our Saviour's for hosting such an event. To all who helped make this event a success, you are an inspiration.

And for all those tired volunteers, I hope you get a week of relaxation and rejuvenation. You are my heroes.