



## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

## HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR IN HAZELWOOD OFFERS SHOPPERS UNIQUE HAND-CRAFTED ITEMS FOR PERFECT GIFTS

*Hazelwood, Mo., (October 9, 2006)* – Has the monumental task of holiday shopping soured your Christmas cheer? Are you at your wits end finding a gift for someone who seems to have everything? If so, mark your calendar to attend the **Holiday Craft Bazaar** on **Saturday, November 14**, at the **Hazelwood Community Center** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Sponsored by Hazelwood Parks and Recreation Division, this event features vendors from the entire North County area who have a special knack for creating unique hand-crafted items that make the perfect gift. One of them is Jackie Orasco, a 15-year employee of the City of Hazelwood. She started out part-time and is currently working full-time as the City's front-desk receptionist.

Orasco likes her job because she enjoys working with people. "Everyday, I greet people who walk into our City Hall and direct them to where they need to go. I also answer phone calls from our residents and help them by answering questions or forwarding them to the right person," said Orasco. "In addition, I provide clerical assistance for several departments. It's a position that offers a lot of job variety and allows me to meet people from different walks of life."

She credits her mother for giving her the inspiration to delve into making crafts. According to Orasco, "My mom has been sewing things for years and I started doing ceramics. About eight years ago, we decided to team up and share a booth at Hazelwood's Holiday Craft Bazaar. It's worked out well for us so we've been doing it ever since. We like participating in this event because it's local and we get to meet a lot of vendors and shoppers from Hazelwood and the surrounding North County area, many of whom we know and have formed friendships with over the years."

This year, Orasco and her mother will be featuring the following one-of-kind craft items at their booth: Christmas light blocks; Christmas trees and ornaments; holiday aprons; tree skirts; baby swaddles and afghans. One item that should peak the interest of pet owners is Orasco's Christmas scarves for dogs.

"We're all animal lovers in my family. I first came up with this idea when I took my dachshund, Sassy, to the groomer. After finishing with her, they put a little scarf around her neck. I thought it looked so cute on her. It later gave me the inspiration to create Christmas scarves for dogs and put 'doggie' bones on them for decorations," said Orasco. "Most people are real happy about buying items for their pet."

Vendors who wish to reserve booth space at this year's Holiday Craft Bazaar have until the first of November to register. Applications are available at either Recreation Center or by calling (314) 731-0980. Vendor fees are \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Admission is free for the general public.

For more information about the Holiday Craft Bazaar, contact Jill Arnold at (314) 513-5073.

## PHOTO CAPTION



**HAZELWOOD'S HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR OFFERS GIFTS GALORE** – Jackie Orasco and her mother will be among dozens of vendors showcasing their hand-crafts for sale at this year's Holiday Craft Bazaar on November 14 at the Hazelwood Community Center. At their booth, shoppers will find Christmas light boxes, hand-sewn holiday aprons, baby swaddles and ornamental tree toppers. Free admission to the general public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.