

THE SEARCH FOR VALUE

It is only natural for a person to take inventory of their home and work lives when they are in the midst of an economic or career obstacle. This inventory at one point or another usually breaks our lives down to a basic level where we begin to look around us and wonder how we accumulated what we have and why we thought we needed it in the first place. Many of us need to question the **value** we have placed on our belongings (especially those items we purchased and intended to use, but we just haven't). We can also consider how much we can profit from selling the item(s) on eBay, Craigslist or through our local papers. I challenge you to really look at what **value** means to you. An unused designer handbag may have a value in your mind defined by many factors including attachment, sentimentality and stubbornness around how much we paid for it in the first place but it is never sold, therefore not fully recognizing its possible **value**.

However, if the item were to be donated to the 2009 CREW Foundation Silent Auction held during the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace in Boston September 30th through October 3rd, then the **true value** will be realized; realized through knowing that a fellow CREW Network member will put it to good use while CREW Foundation receives 100 percent of the item's proceeds to support the vision of CREW Network. Arguably, the measure of an item's **true value** can only be acknowledged through the synergy of giving and receiving and the personal fulfillment that brings.

CREW Foundation challenges each of you to support the 2009 CREW Foundation Silent Auction by taking an inventory of your life, closet, home and business – look for ways to economize and donate those “green” or gently used items to the 2009 CREW Foundation Silent Auction. Here are some basic examples of what has been donated, to date, for 2009:

1. Designer Purses & Handbags – Designers include Gucci, Ferragamo, Coach, Mary Norton, and many others.
2. Jewelry
3. Technology – Software, PDA's, etc.
4. Shoes (New only, please) – Joan & David
5. Jackets, Coats, Hats & Scarves
6. Household Items – Linen table settings, glassware, art, etc.
7. Memorabilia – Autographed sports items, books, etc.

Non-traditional Items of interest that Auction Committee has discussed include:

1. Credit card points or miles stacking up? Cash them in for store gift cards or airfare certificates you can donate.
2. Season ticket holder? Donate a pair of tickets to your local team.
3. Have a vacation home or condo? Donate a week-long stay at your destination.
4. Unique items from your region - Make sure that the item is either easy to carry home in a suitcase or can be easily packaged and shipped without costing a large amount of money.

Consider also donating your professional services. Not only are you supporting the work of CREW Foundation, this is an opportunity for you to build long-term business.

1. Are you an architect or builder? Donate your expertise to build/design a doghouse for a pampered pooch or jungle gym for a feline!
2. Are you a local historian or expert? Donate a day where you can take the winner(s) on a site-seeing tour and lunch, catered by you.
3. Are you a gourmet cook or skilled baker? Donate a year of foods or cakes/sweets made by you – sent on a monthly basis to the winner.
4. Are you a wine or liquor connoisseur? Donate a vintage bottle from your cellar or bar.
5. Are you a budding artist? Donate one of your latest or greatest works of art or your time to make something new for the highest bidder.

To see a complete list of the currently needed items, please visit the [CREW Foundation Auction webpage](#). To donate an item to the Auction, please complete and submit the [2009 Auction Commitment Form](#). We need your help to secure the most unique and unusual items found anywhere. You can help this be the most successful CREW Foundation Auction yet.

Please contact [Christi Quick](#) with any questions regarding the Auction or to arrange for item shipment.