

# MdS News: A Super Flea Eulogy

## History of the Super Flea:

The first Super Flea was held in the early '90's to try to mitigate a serious budget shortfall in the general fund. Sam Nichols Chaired the first two Super Fleas after which Amy Olsen took the reins and faithfully served the Flea until 1999. The first Super Flea brought in just under \$2,000 for use in the General Fund. At its height, the Flea brought in \$10,000 with an additional \$3,000 of ancillary benefit for 14 additional charities.



The first Super Flea was held in a member's driveway. But, after the Christian Education building was completed, the Flea moved to the Fellowship Hall. It was truly amazing to see the rapid transformation after Sunday worship as chairs were moved out and tables set up. The hall filled to overflowing during the week and all was cleaned up and changed back to a Sanctuary ready for worship the following Sunday. Over the years the Flea has been supported by, and provided funding for, several Mission del Sol organizations and projects including Presbyterian Women and the Honduras Mission Teams. In 2000, Session designated Super Flea proceeds officially for mission. In 2002, the Deacons formally asked Session for "ownership" of the Flea so that funding from the Flea could be designated for their various mission projects. The Super Flea grew to the point that one Chair wasn't adequate, so a committee of MdS members took on the task. That



Committee grew over the years with many members faithfully serving their own "Super Flea niche" year over year. Active support from nearly 125 members as well as donations from the entire congregation were

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required to successfully produce the Super Flea annually.

## **Saying Good-Bye to the Super Flea:**

It is time to write the final chapter of the Super Flea. After 25 years, this labor of love and dust will be retired. But before we say good-bye let us reflect on what the Flea did for our congregation over its 25 year history. The Super Flea was much more than a fundraiser. Although it was certainly successful at that, bringing in over \$156,000 to support MdS operations and mission and providing a total estimated benefit to the community of over \$186,000 during its 25 year history. 21 charities external to Mission del Sol benefited from the Flea's left overs.



But the Flea, itself was a significant mission and community outreach for Mission del Sol. Its goals were to serve God, bring the local community into the church, create fellowship, recycle, support mission in addition to raising funds. There is no doubt that the Super Flea accomplished all these things over the years, bringing our MdS community together and demonstrating our love of Jesus Christ to the community.

There are many stories of hard work, much dust and many laughs in Super Flea history. We will miss seeing our children joyfully finding toys and playing dress up as we priced and sorted items. We'll miss the neighbor who year over year, brought in donations just to say hi. We remember the year the youth held the tent frame down as we frantically cut the tent from its frame during a dust storm, the rainy year we had to crunch our large items under a crowded tent, the largest item sold at the Flea (a Car), the one item no one could identify (even the guy who bought it didn't know what it was) and the Fish that came back several years like a salmon spawning (who has that now?) We watched our children grow over the years as they gradually moved from playing to helping to taking on major roles in producing the Flea. We worked hard and joyfully together as we sorted and folded, priced and cleaned, set up and tore down. And through that we got to know each other and our community in more than a "Sunday morning handshake" kind of way. As we say good-bye to the Super Flea we look forward to other opportunities that will spring up to help us continue the community building, outreach and funding goals that the Super Flea supported, while we still cherish the memory of the Flea.