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Michelle Johns is surrounded by Christmas decorations at a booth at the Merry Marketplace preview party.

Donahue/CA Spy: Get ready: Christmas on way

By Michael Donahue
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Christmas knocked Halloween off the radar -- for a few days -- during Merry Marketplace, the annual fund-raiser for the Junior League of Memphis.

Guests at Thursday's preview party at Agricenter International were among the first to buy everything from fudge to Christmas tree decorations. Live music for guests to open and close their wallets to and food stations were featured. The party was a kick-off to the shopping spree that lasted through Saturday.

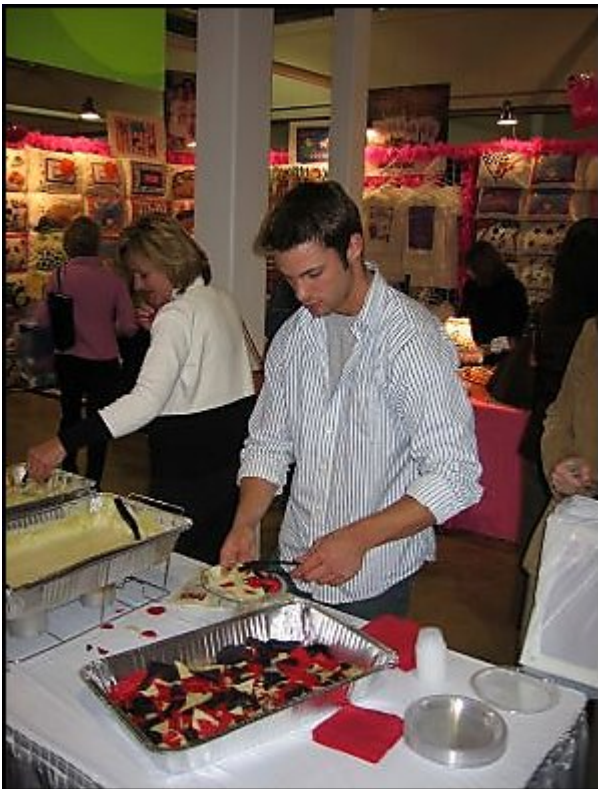
The event was a success, said **Cecile George**, chairman. "Our silent auction was extremely successful," she said. "We raised over \$32,000."

Former Memphian **Alex Williams** and his wife, **Cindy**, owners of POTSALOT in New Orleans, were among the dealers.

They're temporarily living in Memphis. "Our shop's OK. Our home is OK. Our city is not there," Cindy said.



Former Memphian Alex Williams and his wife, Cindy, brought pots from their New Orleans shop, POTSALOT, to Merry Marketplace. They're temporarily living here since Katrina.



Matt Stevens helps himself to some Mexican food at one of the vendors at the preview party for Merry Marketplace at Agricenter International.

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