



# Signals

The Newsletter of the  
Signal Hill Education Foundation

## Our Mission:

To insure continuing financial support for the Signal Hill School to enhance the strength of the region by providing exceptional opportunities for intellectual discovery for all members of the Signal Hill Community

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## **B<sup>2</sup> - Building Community** By Garen Vartanian, SHEF Board Member

The Signal Hill Community came together to put on an exciting first venture on Sunday, Oct. 6. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual event---called Bizarre Bazaar, otherwise known as B<sup>2</sup>---by all accounts, was a success.

Signal Hill Education Foundation (SHEF) sponsored the event, which took place from Noon-4 p.m. at Signal Hill Park, rain or shine.

“The B<sup>2</sup> event came about because we wanted an event that was different from any other,” event chair Lanna Boyles said. “We thought the ‘Gypsy Caravan’ held in St. Louis was a unique event and tried to fashion B<sup>2</sup> after that---but on a smaller scale. The vendors were set up around the track area at Signal Hill Park with each vendor displaying their items on decorated tables or under tents.”

The event featured a wide array of odds and ends. People spent the afternoon browsing one-of-a-kind items, new items, old items, treasures, gems, trinkets, baubles and *junque*. B<sup>2</sup>, which housed vendors, traders, artisans, retailers, entrepreneurs, among others, also had food and drinks and many other highlights.

The cost was \$25 per space, with the option of renting a table for \$10, as vendors could create their own creative space. The event netted \$525 for SHEF, and the community involvement was priceless.

“For a first attempt, it went well,” SHEF member Steve Suess said. “Any time the school and community can work together in tandem, it is a win-win for the neighborhood. The highlight was observing school groups working together to raise money for their causes. It was a great opportunity to develop student leadership.”

Possible ideas to grow the event in the future include more advertising, games for smaller children and securing additional vendors. Suess also mentioned perhaps keeping the booths together in one area but acknowledged if the event grows, booths will need to be in separate locations. Overall, Suess unequivocally considered the event a success. “Sometimes, events are planned to be fund-raisers; other times, they are planned to be “Friend” raisers,” he said. “This was a little bit of both.”

Boyles already is excited about the next B<sup>2</sup> venture. “The best part of the event was being able to socialize with friends and neighbors and make new connections,” she said “The unique part of B<sup>2</sup> was it was a first time event which we are planning to make bigger and better...and become an annual event.”