



## Helping Handbags Fun-Raiser

### Can we get PURSEonal?

The FAWCO Foundation is calling on all FAWCO Clubs to show their philanthropic heart with a Helping Handbags fundraiser.

Are you looking for a way to help your club raise some money to support an educational award, a development grant or the Target project? It's simple!

**Admit** it. Don't you have a handbag that you've never used? Maybe the color or the size was wrong, somehow it just didn't work. You stashed it in the back of your closet because it was too nice to toss but it has never seen the light of day. Now is the time for you bag to come out of the closet and do some good in the world.

**Ask** your members to clean out their closets and set aside gently used or never used handbags for a Helping Handbags sale or auction. One of those mistakes could be the perfect find for someone else. Publicize the event at meetings, with posters and in your newsletter. Raise interest by raffling one of the bags at a meeting shortly before the event. Sell the majority of the handbags at a meeting, a special event, or in an online auction. If your club is having a live event, retain any designer bags for auction. Make sure to find a good auctioneer. Stress the fact that you are raising money for charity and make sure to set a goal number and encourage your best bidders to keep that goal in mind. Some generous souls are willing to top up for a worthy cause.

**Donation** The donation your club makes from your Helping Handbags event can help support FAWCO Foundation programs. A minimum donation of \$1,000 allows your club to be listed as a "Sponsor in Part" or "Co-Sponsor" of a Development Grant or Award.

**Recognition** justly deserved by your club for its hard work!

**Forward** the funds to The FAWCO Foundation before the end of the year to help support the grants and awards. Remember, if you are worried that you can't come up with funds to fully sponsor an award or grant, we can help match you up with another club for a co-sponsorship.

**Get** PURSEonal and share your experience with other FAWCO club members. Let us know your top tips for getting the most out of your Helping Handbags.

**Propose** auction to your board and set a date. If possible, choose a general meeting date where participation is expected to be high (a kick-off meeting) - make the auction the main event/program for the meeting, in lieu of a speaker, if possible.

**Do** a 'save the date' in club newsletters and social media groups as soon as the date is established.

**Begin** collection of handbags. Be clear that handbags don't need to be high-end designer (new or gently used that aren't used for any number of reasons) - but that branded bags are certainly welcome.

**Publish** details about the auction on your FAWCO webpage and/or create a separate auction page featured on your website. Update it regularly (i.e. "teasers" - feature handbags that will be on offer)

**Try** to find a professional auctioneer willing to donate time and services. A professional auction means a fast-paced event with no awkward pauses.

**Make** numbered paddles for auction participants - consider selling the paddles as part of the fundraising (we charged £1 per paddle).

**Photograph** each handbag, assign a lot number and attach a label with that lot number, and include a brief description of the bag. Make note of bags that are brand new and feature them. Provide this to the auctioneer who will see brand names, features, etc. to mention from the description when auctioning the bag.

**Establish** the minimum bid (and bid increments) as a guideline for your auctioneer.

**Use** photographs and descriptions of bags during the time leading up to the auction on the website and social media as teasers.

**Use** a Power Point Presentation to present the bags on screen during the auction. Consider conducting a silent auction.

**Create** a printed catalog - but consider the price of printing.

**Use** one item as a 'grand raffle prize' that every participant will want and include additional raffle prizes solicited from local businesses. We had two gift certificates from a local retailer for a personal shopping experience.

**Consider** taking bids in advance.

**Consider** including accessories (scarves, jewelry, etc.)

**Use** a carbon copy receipt book and provide one copy of each receipt to the winning bidder of each lot as each bag is auctioned.

**Have Fun!**