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PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Abilene, Texas – Women have the opportunity to benefit Alliance for Women & Children by bidding on over 70 handbags at the organization’s fourth “Old Bags” Auction and Springtime Tea. The event will be held at the Alliance Auditorium, 1350 N. 10th Street in Abilene on Thursday April 3. Attendees of the sold out event will mix and mingle to bid on vintage and new purses in support of women and children’s programs in our community.

“The ‘Old Bags’ auction is a fundraising event created from within our membership. Everyone loves a great looking bag with an interesting history and to be able to support women and children in our community,” says Kristina Jones, Executive Director of Alliance for Women and Children.

Texas State Representative Susan King will serve as the auctioneer for the live auction of purses which range from the 1930s to today’s designers. The live auction is filled with haute couture designers including a Jimmy Crystal with matching compact, a springtime Gucci bag and a red lip purse by Timmy Woods who designed purses for *Sex and the City*. There will also be a silent auction containing over 50 purses. These purses will include designers such as Gucci, Kiely, and Jamin Puech along with evening bags, clutches and even faux bags from Canal Street.

“The outpouring of support has been fabulous. We have ladies cleaning out their closets to support Alliance for Women & Children,” Barbara Pittman, Board Member and Chair of the “Old Bags” Auction.

What makes this event one of the most talked about in Abilene is the where and how each bag traveled. A black clutch from Saks Fifth Avenue was once carried to Truman Capote’s cocktail party launching *Breakfast at Tiffanys* and to an Andy Warhol event. A handmade needlepoint

bag was carried in the 1930s by the first female realtor in Abilene. Other purse surprises include a vintage alligator bag with matching shoes from Neiman Marcus and a hand-beaded clutch from the 1930s.

Alliance for Women & Children hopes to exceed last year's net revenue of \$10,000. Funds raised will support programs designed to empower women and their families. The programs include After-School Care serving 650 area children, Women's Health Awareness which provides mammograms and cervical exams for underserved women, A-Teens for teen girls focused on molding confident young women, and Women's Economic Empowerment created to bring financial literacy and workplace confidence to women in the Big Country.

For more information on the "Old Bags" Auction and Springtime Tea and the programs at Alliance for Women & Children feel free to call 325-677-5321.

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Alliance for Women & Children is dedicated to empowering women and families through programs such as After-School Care, A-Teens for teen girls, Economic Empowerment and Women's Health Awareness while promoting well being, self-sufficiency, and future success. Located at 1350 N. 10th, the Alliance has been serving the Abilene community since 1920.