

Shopping event to raise funds for Liga Contra el Cancer

BY LINDA RODRIGUEZ BERNFELD

Maggie Maceiras and Georgette Hoyo are hoping enough people will want to mix shopping with the need to help those who suffer from cancer. The best friends are conducting a fundraising event titled "Shop for the Liga's First Annual Holiday Bazaar" on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Coco Plum Women's Club, 1375 Sunset Dr.

"We are having 40 vendors and six artists," Maceiras said. "It's like a secret sale boutique."

The sale, which benefits Liga Contra el Cancer (League Against Cancer), will offer clothing, accessories, home goods, candles, and children's gifts.

"We have someone who will be having a wine tasting and someone with cigars," she said. "There is something for everyone on your shopping list."

The event also will have a number of speakers who will give short talks while everyone shops. Those who attend can take part in a raffle with some great prizes. A portion of the proceeds from the vendors will be donated to the League.

This is the second time organizers have put together this type of event. The first one, in October, was quite successful.

"It was a lot of fun," Maceiras said. "And more than anything, it was fun to see that it was so successful."

She said she went to sleep the night before the October event worrying that no one was going to attend.

"At 8 a.m. we opened the doors and until 3 p.m. it was non-stop," she said. "It was awesome."

It was so awesome that they raised \$5,000. And the feedback from those who attended was such that they wanted to try again, but this time, instead of donating the funds to breast cancer research, they switched to the Liga Contra el Cancer (League Against Cancer). The vendors also were in favor of doing a second sale.

"People wait to the last minute for Christmas shopping," Maceiras said. "It's for a great cause. If you went once and you had a good time and it was a good experience, you'll tell your friends."

They chose La Liga because they



Friends Maggie Maceiras (left) and Georgette Hoyo are raising money to help those with cancer.

could see the direct results of how the money is spent.

"Everything goes to the patient," she said. "The League has a clinic. They take patients who have no other recourse. They check everything to make sure you qualify. They give them chemo."

While she has nothing against giving money to research, she and her friend decided on supporting the Liga because it is a local organization.

"We feel the money is going to help someone," she said. "We've seen family members go through cancer. We feel it would be better to help the family directly. Cancer is such an unforgiving disease."

Maceiras said the clinic goes through \$75,000 in medications each Wednesday, when they do the chemo.

"This year they've seen a tremendous decrease in donations," she said. "People who would donate \$10,000 are giving \$4,000."

The sale will start at 8 a.m. and run to 7:30 p.m. Raffle tickets will be available for \$1 each.

For more information, call 305-302-2262 or send email to <ShopForTheLiga@yahoo.com>.