

## LITTLE BEAR AND MAMA BEAR GO SHOPPING by Nancy Cramer

Mama Bear called, "Little Bear, come here. We are going shopping" and she sat in front of the computer. Little Bear was puzzled. They usually put on their coats and got into the car. Mama Bear smiled at his curious look and explained, "We are going shopping on the computer. It is called a virtual silent auction, and the church is having it to raise money for people who have had floods and fires and terrible things happen to their home." She typed busily and soon a woman appeared on the screen.. She explained what a "virtual silent auction was" and the rules. Also how to get a bid sheet like the one Mama Bear was holding.

"We are going to look at some things we would like to buy, and then write down the price we are willing to pay," she said. Little Bear was confused. At the stores they looked at the price tag or the sale sign, but he trusted Mama Bear to know about such things, so he watched the screen as it passed a table with lots of books. Then it moved on to show some Chinese dishes. Mama Bear stopped at a metal plaque showing the Chief's quarterback, Patrick Mahones, holding the Super Bowl trophy. Little Bear remembered that because Papa Bear got so excited when he saw that last year.

Mama Bear said, "Now bid sheet shows the starting bid is \$25.00 on the plaque and the next bid is \$28.00, but I think I will bid \$30.00" and she wrote that amount on the piece of paper. Little Bear was confused again, why pay more than asked for? Mama Bear hurriedly told him that the trophy plaque was so popular that she wanted to be the highest bidder. They looked at the computer again. Little Bear exclaimed when they came to a table of dolls. "Stop, I want the doll in the pink dress," he said. It was Mama Bear's time to be puzzled, so Little Bear told her about the little girl bear down the street whose dog had chewed up her pretty doll and she would always cry about it. "I will pay with my allowance," he said. Mama Bear looked at the minimum price. It was \$10.00. That was a lot of allowances for Little Bear, but she could manage it. "We should look for some Christmas gifts here," and they saw pretty dishes, of tables with books, a small suitcase, and many items of needlework. Mama Bear stopped here. "Hmm, if I buy everything in this item it would be \$50.00. That would be nice for Grandma but a little too much money, so I will just pick out some items with individual prices." She studied them carefully and wrote her bids on the sheet.

Little Bear saw some big stripedpillows lying on the floor. Just the thing to build his fort . And only \$6.00 each. "There, Mama Bear, is what I would like," and he pointed to the stuffed pillows. Mama Bear made a mental note to get them for a Christmas present. Where would she hide them? Well, she would find a place. Next were the books. "There is a set of 5 mystery books for Grandpa Bea.. That's what he likes."

And the Bear family shopped, then emailed their bid to the church. They would wait for the final results to be announced in a few days. Meanwhile, Mama Bear thought she would bid again on the trophy plaque if she had to, up to--- well she would decide. Little Bear was happy because he liked the little girl bear and didn't want her to cry. He crossed his paws for good luck on his price. Shopping at a silent auction was fun. He wanted to do it again- someday after, he had saved up his allowance.They told Papa Bear about their shopping trip, and laughed. Mama and Little Bear joined in, because isn't that what all bears do?