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## **Children's consignment sale grows more popular as economy sinks**

*Kaitlin Keane*

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When Laura Rappaport moved from Virginia six years ago, she brought her favorite Southern tradition along: **children's consignment sales**.

Rappaport, a Hanover native, found that the large **sales** she had scoured in Virginia were lacking on the South Shore. So in 2003 she started **Children's Clothesline**, a biannual event that attracts bargain hunters from across the state. "These **sales** are huge in other parts of the country," Rappaport said. "I decided I'd bring this home with me."

The one-day **sale** fills two floors with **children's** clothing, shoes, toys and goods. The venture has grown steadily each year - going from 50 consigners to 300. This year's spring **sale**, held Saturday at Riley Hall in Hanover, showed a jump in attendance as parents, eager to take advantage of bargains in a tough economy, carried heaping boxes of clothing and toys from the **sale**.

"There are people in there spending hundreds and hundreds of dollars," said Andrea McNamara of Plymouth, who attended with her 3-year-old triplets. McNamara said the **sale** offers many new items and high-end labels for a fraction of the price. Most of the clothing - from brands like Ralph Lauren and Osh Kosh - carries a price tag of less than \$10.

"I'm amazed at the quality," McNamara said. "I wish someone had told me about these **sales** when I was pregnant, I could have come here for all of my swag."

**Consignment sales** have always been a resource for parents of "multiples," McNamara said, but the high price of **children's** clothing, coupled with a sinking economy, has led more and more parents to travel to such events.

The **sale** is a deal for both cash-strapped shoppers and consigners, who receive at least 60 percent of the profit from their items and access to presale events.

This year Rappaport also had 90 volunteers who helped sort and count items in exchange for access to presale.

Because the event has become well-known among parents on the South Shore, it is easier to sell items there than online, some said.

"You could do it on Craigslist or eBay, but this is a lot of women in one place looking for exactly what you're selling," McNamara said.

It also benefits the community, Rappaport said.

After each **sale**, the leftover items designated for charity are packed into a 26-foot truck and shipped to Cradles for Crayons, where families in need can scour the items for free.

For more information about the **sale** or to become a consigner, visit [www.thechildrensclothesline.com](http://www.thechildrensclothesline.com).

