



SweetCharity

A DAILY CHAT ABOUT DALLAS PHILANTHROPY

Trisha Wilson Creates Two-Day Tseelana Market to Help Children Way South and East

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There's something that you've just gotta love about **Trisha Wilson** (blonde in picture). Whether it's her dog Charley or it's her ability to work with some of the most demanding of the international set in designing their newest resort, the gal has a magic that goes way beyond "WOW!"

ADMISSION: I knew of Trisha when we were both at Highland Park H.S. She was a cool upperclassman and the glory gal. Cheerleader. Too adorable for words. Not one of the the high-brow types. And drat it, she was a natural blonde with ice-blue eyes. She made [Barbie](#) look downright homely. We all hated her because she was so All-American perfect and wondered how we could emulate her.

Over the years, she has done everything from the [Blue Train](#) (duh, it's Africa's version of the Orient Express) to heading up a [company](#) of 350 associates. She has been a legend that many women use as their role model. But life was not all that perfect. She grew up in the Park Cities when every house didn't kick in at a couple of million. No, she was a normal kid who achieved success totally based on her own talents.

Perhaps that's why Ms. Trisha has extended herself to those in need beyond our city limits. You see, Trisha was a victim of love. Love for Africa, that is. She saw the people, especially the children, as her mission. Their needs became her needs. Their hopes became her goals. Their challenges became her order of the day.

According to Wilson Foundation Executive Director **Tori Mannes**, "Trisha always has said coming on board to design the Palace of the Lost City in Sun City South Africa in the early 90's was a pivotal point in her career. This project introduced her to a country that she instantly fell in love with. South Africa really spoke to her soul and reminded her so much of Texas—the weather, the rolling hills, and plains. She built a home on a game reserve in the Waterberg Mountain region of South Africa, and driving to and from the property began to notice the stark poverty that was all around her. In our industry, we are all so fortunate to work in a business where we are surrounded by beauty, luxury and privilege; yet, she was moved by the contrast between that world and this rural community in South Africa, which has been devastated by poverty, unemployment, lack of quality schools, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has orphaned so many children."

To bring it home, Trisha has created "Tseelana Market," a two-day shopping spree on Thursday, October 8, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and Friday, October 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. , at [Tru Salon](#), 2715 Fairmount Street.

If your African language is a little on the downside, "tseelana" means "to help each other" in Sotho, the native language of the South African people. The goal of the Tseelana Market is to help each other—vendors, shoppers, and, ultimately, the children of South Africa who need help.

"I must say that I was deeply moved by all I saw and experienced there. On one hand, I was inspired by all the good work that is being done, and, on the other, I felt more convinced than ever that the work we are doing there is both life-changing and life-saving," said Tori upon her return from Africa with Trisha.

The event is absolutely free unless you decide to buy something, but you know how chardonnay shopping is so tempting.

The Market features the creations of Barfield & Baird, Irving & Fine, Brenda Bogart, London Schmid, Beyond Baroque, Margaret Miller, Eleanor Hamm & Co., S King Collection, and selected artisans from South Africa. A portion of each vendor's proceeds benefit [The Wilson Foundation](#) and its focus of support on education and health care programs for disadvantaged children in South Africa, especially those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.