



SUNDAY AFTERNOON, Cecil Hess, Eileene Grose and Elaine Bryan (above) checked out a table decorated with Kansas State University plates and colors during the Decatur County Stand Against Violence Settin' Pretty event.

Judy Ostmeyer (below left) stopped to let the women in the audience check out a colorful outfit she was modeling. Cricket Steinmetz (below right) posed one last time before she left the room.



Story and photos by Kimberly Brandt

Women, tables dress in their best

Tables were dressed with dishes of all colors, flashy clothes, shiny silverware, flowers and sweet treats.

Women walked around the tables, checking out the little intricacies, saying more than once "how cute" everything was.

It was the first Settin' Pretty table dressing contest held to raise money for the Decatur County Stand Against Violence group.

The group worked with the Dresser, which presented an abbreviated fashion show.

Around 30 to 40 women showed up at the event Sunday at The Gateway.

There were 16 decorated tables and one empty table as a reminder of the six women, who were killed by domestic violence in northwest Kansas last year.

The money raised will be donated to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter, said Peg Smith, a member of the anti-violence group.

She said the shelter has lost federal and state money, forcing it to depend more on fund raisers.

After the women had a chance to check out the tables and get some treats, the fashion show started.

"Spring is looking really good down at the Dresser," said manager

Karen Metcalf, who emceed the show.

Embellishments on outfits are important again this year, she said.

The women were dressed in colorful outfits, shirts and pants with fancy stitching and classy jewelry.

Mrs. Metcalf said the market includes a lot of separates, which explains why there aren't many dresses in the store. This spring, she said, pink is the color.

After the show, Charlotte Linsner, with the shelter, had a few moments to talk.

She said the donations of clothes the Dresser makes each year to the shelter really helps. Women who are going out for job interviews need new clothes and they help with self-esteem.

Ms. Smith said it was a "neat" partnership between the store and the violence group. She said they are planning on another fund raiser next year and already have several signed up for the tables.

Winning tables were done by Anita Hirsch, best use of theme with a spring tea; Shirley Shields and Mary Ann Erickson, most creative, with flowers and a bucket made of ice; and Pat Brown and Patti Richards, best kids' table, with a barn and cookie invitations.



DRESSED IN A RED HAT, Charlotte Meints looked at one of the tables.