

Search & Rescue:

"OPERATION THRIFT STORE"

Your Mission (Should you choose to accept it!)

Search & Rescue: Operation Thrift Store is definitely not for the Paris Hiltons of the world. This is guerilla warfare shopping, and only the strong survive.

American has gone from being a country of abundance to a nation of thrift. Making do with less is our new call to action.

You've seen **Extreme Makeover For The Home**. This is **Extreme Makeover For The Person**, without the big budget.

Our guests are people who have proven that they have met some of life's most difficult trials head-on and survived. Now they're on a mission to make their lifestyles better, but they need our help.

Our thrift store boot camp challenge shows people how to reach their wardrobe or home decorating challenges by putting them "in the trenches." By introducing our guests to alternative shopping habits, like thrift stores, garage sales and consignment shops, they learn a life-long strategy for looking great and creating a pleasing environment without breaking the bank.

Charting the Course

The Mission Leader

With her wealth of knowledge and years of second-hand shopping experience, Teresa Riccobuono, our budget fashionista, will lead the **Search & Rescue** thrift store missions. Just as she has done hundreds of times before, Teresa will help our guests successfully navigate the treacherous waters of "recycled retail."

Each episode of **Search & Rescue** consists of 3 sections:

The Dossier

By introduction and consultation, we meet our guest, hear their story, and outline our strategy for a successful **Search & Rescue**.

The Search

Armed with our map, compass, and Mission Leader, we hit the shopping trail. Stopping along the way for important second-hand searching tips and tricks.

Mission Accomplished

We reveal the fruits of our successful search, and review our **Search & Rescue** effort.

Search & Rescue

Sample Missions

Operation: MARIA

Maria is a single mother, raising three children, on welfare. Her husband left shortly after their third child was born. Not because he was afraid he couldn't provide for his ever growing family, but because Maria was diagnosed with cancer which was discovered during her pregnancy. That is what put him over the edge and literally out the door. To keep a roof over her family's head, she had to go on welfare. She has worked very hard to move her family out of the cycle of welfare by going through the job training program available to her, all the while battling her cancer.

Maria has completed her job training and she has her first interview in 3 days. We need to find interview and workplace-appropriate attire and fast!

Operation: SARAH

Sarah is going off to college, and is moving into her first apartment. Sarah's father died when she was in junior high school and she and her mom have been making it on their own ever since. Between her after-school job and help from her mom, there has been just enough money saved to pay tuition, with very little left over for living expenses. Sarah has worked hard and she deserves a fun yet functional place for studying and for hanging out with friends.

Operation: TAMMY and DONALD

Tammy is engaged to her very own prince charming, Donald. (No, not THE Donald; that's a different show). The couple has always wanted a beautiful wedding, but their sensible side knows that a big, beautiful wedding will take away from their ability to buy a home. Big party versus buying a home. Hmm?

Having survived the foster care system, having a home of her own would truly be a dream come true.

Tammy knows that with patience, luck and a good tailor, she and Donald can look like a prince and princess without living like paupers afterwards. They have both agreed to the time commitment necessary to accomplish their wedding budget goal. And with a fairy godmother (Teresa), the attendants can look splendid without depleting their savings accounts as well.

Now that's Happily Ever After!

Other Operations:

- **Recreate People Magazine's Best Dressed (yes, from the thrift store)**
- **Recreate Fashion Magazine Outfits & Compare Prices**
- **What Not To Wear - Wardrobe Challenge \$5,000 versus \$500**
- **Making something old and outdated new and hip**
- **Clothing Swap**
- **Return to Work**
- **Stay at Home Mothers**
- **Wedding & Honeymoon**
- **Maternity**
- **Change or Update of Personal Style**
- **First Date**
- **Meeting Future In-laws**
- **Meeting Biological Parents/Children**
- **Prom**
- **Graduation**
- **Class Reunion**
- **Weight Loss**
- **Gear up for Sports**
- **Lost Luggage**
- **Natural Disasters such as Hurricane Katrina**
- **House Burned Down**
- **Low Budget Theatre Productions**
- **Renaissance Faire**
- **Costume/Theme Parties**
- **Decorating on a Budget**

The Dream Team

Search & Rescue works with such amazing charitable organizations as:

- **Goodwill Industries**
- **Salvation Army**
- **Wardrobe for Opportunity**
- **Women's Initiative for Self Employment**
- **STAND! For Families Free of Violence**
- **And more!**

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