

Gifts That Give Back

By Lyn Dobrin

How your purchases help save the **environment** and those in need

It's the season of giving, and that generous spirit extends to business owners all over the Gold Coast who are helping you make a positive statement while shopping.

Champions for Charity of the Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza shopping centers, now in its 19th year, has helped local hospitals, schools and charities raise \$7.7 million. From December 4 to 6, shoppers can use their special Champions card when making a purchase from stores in these marketplaces and 25 percent will be donated to the registered charity of their choice. There are 113 charities to choose from. To register, call 800-818-6767.

The jewelry of Syosset artist Alice Sprintzen has been featured in *Elle* magazine and *The New York Times*, as well as in craft magazines. Sprintzen takes found objects such as fragments of red, amber and clear car lights to incorporate into her one-of-a-kind pieces. Her A Token Of necklace is created from tokens, garnet, a car tail light, antique glass belt buckle, sterling silver and glass beads (\$750, www.alicesprintzen.com).

Two years ago, Laurie and Marty Scheinman decided to focus on charitable giving in a sustainable way. The couple opened the shop Whit & Whim in Port Washington, and filled it with unique home goods from around the world, such as this bowl constructed of waste from steel production in India (\$60). After the Scheinmans pay expenses, the remainder is donated to a different charity each month. To date, they have donated \$51,000.

For additional ways to help, see "It's Better to Give than Receive" on page 42. ■



Alice Sprintzen's
A Token Of necklace



A bowl constructed from the waste of steel production goes for \$60 at Whit and Whim.