

An Evening of Elegance at the Hunt Country Harvest Ball

Loudoun Arts Council and Local Hunt Clubs Team Up for Good Cause

Members of the local hunt clubs and art enthusiasts came together last Saturday evening, November 7 at Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg to raise money for PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families, a private, nonprofit organization serving over 500 children and their families in the Washington metropolitan area. In total, the event raised \$45,000, which will be used for technology carts, iPads with assistive technology and educational apps, and sensory integration rooms and basic necessities for some of the families PHILLIPS serves.

Since 1967, the organization has been helping children where others could not to prepare to become independent, productive young adults. PHILLIPS serves the needs of individuals with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families through education, family support services community education and advocacy.

Mark Moseley, former Redskins NFL player, was the master of ceremonies for the inaugural event. He kept the evening's events moving and the auctions lively. The auctions included a Bourbon Bar, a North Naples Beach, Florida getaway, and a raise the paddle which drew \$10,000 in donations!

Several attendees were Phillips graduates who shared their success stories throughout the evening. Piper Phillips Caswell, President and CEO at PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families said, "Phillips is delighted to showcase the success of

our services and expand awareness of the needs of our youth and families in Loudoun County."

There was a book signing by local authors, including Vicki Moon, Patricia Daly-Lipe and Tina Boyd. Book sales for the evening raised about \$300.

Jill Evans-Kavaldjian, President of the Loudoun Arts Council, organized the art show portion of the event. Thirty 2-D artists in ceramics, wood, sculpture, copper, pewter, jewelry and eleven 3-D artists displayed their pieces. In total, 22 pieces of art were sold, raising over \$5,300.

Evans-Kavaldjian was pleased to take part in the event. She said, "In an effort to revitalize the Loudoun Arts Council and keep it relevant for local artists, we saw it as a great exhibit opportunity for Loudoun artists, who did not need to be Loudoun Arts Council members to apply. We got a great response to the event, and hope to offer more like this in the future."

Debi Alexander, Director of Development at PHILLIPS, said, "We are grateful to partner with Salamander Resort, who gave the artists from the Loudoun Arts Council the opportunity to showcase their work for two weeks leading up to the event as well as hosting our authors for book signings. It is our goal to raise awareness and essential funds for the children we serve while also promoting the rich culture in our community."

Alexander is already making plans for next year's Harvest Ball & Art Sale which is scheduled for November 19, 2016. ♦

Contributed Photo



Mark Moseley, the Harvest Ball's Master of Ceremonies, with Angela and Tim Gannon.

Photos by Gazette



Vicki van Mater and Joe Kasputys of Utopia Farm in Leesburg.



Event Coordinator Debi Alexander with her husband Rep. William "Bill" Alexander Jr. (D), former Representative from Arkansas.



Jill Evans-Kavaldjian, President of the Loudoun Arts Council, organized the art sale that displayed more than 40 artists. Pictured is Jill with her husband Haig.



Krasi Henkel, Board Member of The Loudoun Hunt, with her husband John Henkel, member of the Fairfax Hunt and The Loudoun Hunt.



Tiffany Henkel, formerly from Purcellville, with her husband Robert Emmett Kelly, III.



Event Coordinator Debi Alexander with her husband Rep. William "Bill" Alexander Jr. (D), former Representative from Arkansas.



Katie Miller with Ryder, a Canine Companions for Independence dog.