



Auction Results

RAISING FUNDS BY RAISING HANDS®

Museum raises almost \$300,000 during charity ball



Auctioneer David Goodman introduces the evening's youngest champions, (from left) Tommy, Michael and Megan Hayes of Naperville. Last summer, these children set up a lemonade stand to raise money for DuPage Children's Museum. Their hard work is a testimonial to what the museum experience means to children. Present with their families, the three cousins shyly accepted a standing ovation from the

audience after being first seen in a short video featuring testimonies of other people the museum has touched. Submitted by the DuPage Children's Museum

"Champions for Children" was the theme and close to 250 champions gathered to raise almost \$300,000 at DuPage Children's Museum's annual benefit ball April 17 at the Hotel Arista at CityGate Centre in Naperville. Proceeds from the annual event fund the museum's award-winning exhibits and programs for young children.

This year guests joined emcee Anna Davlantes, contributing anchor/reporter at Fox Chicago News at Nine, and the evening's honorary chairperson A. George Pradel, mayor of Naperville, for a glamorous ball celebrating the positive impact the museum makes in the lives of young children.

Festivities began at a pre-event reception with a special appearance by Blackhawks hockey legend Stan Mikita. The evening proceeded with a silent auction, a fabulous dinner prepared by Hotel Arista's executive sous chef Michael Dellamano, a live auction and dancing to the music of the Al Sofia Band.

Auctioneer David Goodman led bidders through a dozen packages ranging from fantasy vacations in Greece and Italy and a Napa Valley Wine Country insider's tour, to weekend experiences at the Grammy awards in Los Angeles and a VIP trip to New York's Fashion Week. Local destinations were also featured, including a "World's Best Slumber Party" at the museum and a dream round of golf at Rich Harvest Farms.

The latter prize was further enhanced when Mikita agreed to join the lucky foursome for the round and Rich Harvest Farms club manager Keith Rich volunteered to match the package's winning bid.

"Proceeds from the 2010 Champions for Children Benefit Ball will be used to support the museum's child-focused programs and exhibits. Each and every exhibit is designed to promote children's growth and development in the critical fields of math, science and the arts regardless of physical, social and economic barriers," said Susan Broad, executive director of the nonprofit children's museum.

John Calamos, last year's honorary chairperson with his wife, Mae, introduced Pradel to the audience. Calamos welcomed him as a true champion for children, remarking that "no one has demonstrated a higher concern for children than Naperville's own Officer Friendly," referring to Pradel's early role on the Naperville police force.

Pradel modestly accepted his Champion for Children award and complimented the museum. He acknowledged the importance of reaching children at an early age and stated, "We have the best vehicle to do this right here in the heart of our community with DuPage Children's Museum." Pradel applauded his fellow guests by saying, "You are all champions tonight too for your contributions to the museum. The best investment any of us can make is in children."