

All-Charity Auction Sets New Record

By Yurianna Mikolay
Ocean Reef Foundation Administrator

The Ocean Reef Foundation Auction Day events raised a record-setting amount for local charities for the second year in a row. The net proceeds of \$1.55 million raised last week-end exceeded the record set

in the inaugural year by over \$100,000, and will result in another year of record-breaking grants made to deserving charities.

The "One Community, One Auction" events, which replaced a slew of auction fundraisers in 2008, benefit the full slate of local chari-

ties including the Academy, Art League, Cultural Center, Medical Center, Rod & Gun Club environmental efforts and the Ocean Reef Foundation Community Grants Fund supporting outstanding charities on and near the Reef.

According to Foundation Chairman Alan Goldstein, "One reason this was so successful is that the community wholeheartedly supported the one auction concept and put all their efforts behind this one event that benefits all the charities at The Reef and the many charities outside our gates which are in desperate need of our assistance this year."

Foundation President John Taylor also expressed the Foundation's immense gratitude to "all the OR members who supported the one auction concept with generous bidding in these difficult economic times. Ocean Reef is indeed a unique place," he concluded.

In keeping with this year's "Every Charity Has a Story" theme, Taylor was especially pleased to showcase a number of the on and off The Reef charities the events benefit with information stations at



Dick Bassett, Russ Post and Bill Haugland



Energetic Auctioneer and CBS Weatherman Lonnie Quinn starts the bidding



Member Kathie Lee Gifford opened the event with a performance of her song "Everyone Has a Story," which inspired the event's "Every Charity Has a Story" theme.

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25 Children from the Association for Retarded Citizens' Project Thrive, a beneficiary of auction, sing a special song of thanks to Ocean Reef.

Auction

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the daytime Silent Auction Celebration. Also, in a “heart stopper” performance, some 25 children from Florida Association for Retarded Citizens sing at the Gala Wine Dinner.

Performances by Kathie Lee Gifford, who sang her song “Everyone Has a Story,” which inspired the event theme, and energetic Auctioneer and CBS Weatherman Lonnie Quinn were also highlights of the elegant evening.

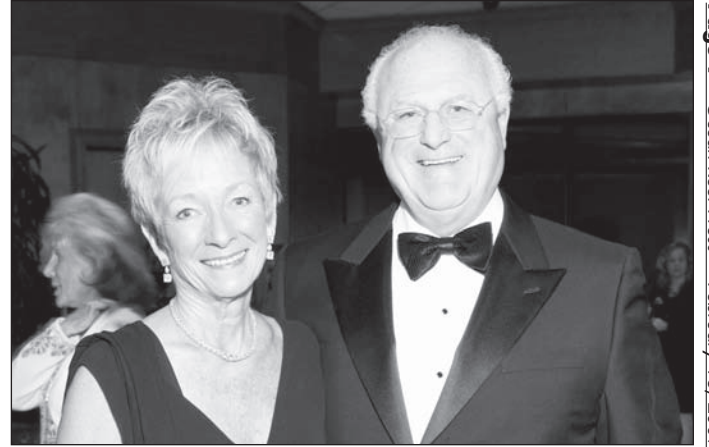
Gratitude and credit for the success went to the efforts of Gala Chairs Bill & Dedie Nutt and Tom & Marcia Martell; Silent Auction Chairs Steven & Kathy Markel; Wine Committee Chairs Mike Berman, Mike Smith and Vince Kent, who spearheaded the popular new Friday evening Wine Tasting & Auction Preview Party; the entire “Every Charity Has a Story” Committee; numerous item donors and volunteers; and Foundation and Club staff.

“This is just one of the greatest stories, not only for our Foundation, but for what the members at Ocean Reef are willing to do for their community even in difficult times,” Foundation Board Director Rich Miller said. “We talk about a sense of club and community. Well, this is the best demonstration I can think of. Only at Ocean Reef!”

Look to the Ocean Reef Press for information on resulting grants distribution in the coming months. To learn more about the Foundation, or to see more photos of the weekend’s events, visit www.orfound.org.



Marcia Welsh, Linda Falk and Sheila Meredith.



Marilyn and Bob Fisher



Gala Wine Dinner & Auction Co-Chair Tom Martell, Auctioneer Lonnie Quinn, Chair Bill Nutt, Foundation Chairman Alan Goldstein, and Gregg Poole on stage following Mr. Poole’s invocation.



Gala Wine Dinner & Live Auction Chairs Dedie & Bill Nutt and Co-Chairs Tom & Marcia Martell take the stage to get the exciting evening started.



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Members' Choice Wine Selections

The Votes are in, and the wines that attendees of last Friday’s Wine Tasting and Auction Preview Party selected as their favorites are:

3 Blind Moose Pinot Grigio, California, 2006

Fragrant pear and stone-fruit aromas with floral hints and light crispness in the mouth followed by a smooth finish.

Franciscan Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa, 2004

Aromas of Blackberry, plum, clove and coffee complimented by cassis, coffee and toasted oak on the palate. This Cabernet finishes long and rich as a result of ripe, refined tannins.

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