



The Nazareth Home

Press Release
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Contact: Renae Brantley
Phone: 219-947-8559

Nazareth Home Gala

East Chicago, IN – The Nazareth Home Gala Chef Tasting and Live and Silent Auction was the place to be on Thursday October 15, 2009. More than 400 guests filled the atrium of the Hammond Federal Courthouse to feast on an array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by some of the area's finest restaurants and caterers, including: Ashley Archer, Executive Chef, Ameristar Casino and Hotel, East Chicago; Cheryl Molenda, Chef, The Inn at Aberdeen, Valparaiso; Glennard Brooks, Executive Chef, Hilton Garden Inn, Merrillville; Carl Linskog, Executive Chef, Papparazzi Restaurant, Valparaiso; Jack Mix, owner, Comfort's Catering, St. John; Terry Zych, Hospitality Program Chair, Ivy Tech Community College, Michigan City, and Nicole Bissonnette and Gary Sanders, owners and Executive Chefs, Bartlett's Gourmet Grill & Tavern, Beverly Shores, Bistro 157, Valparaiso, and Miller Bakery Café, Gary. The 7th annual fundraising event benefits Nazareth Home, a licensed foster home for medically compromised children in East Chicago.

Local attorney, Tom O'Donnell, served as the celebrity auctioneer for the Live Auction. This year's Live Auction items included a Cruise for 12 adults aboard the Northstar yacht, with beverages and hors d'oeuvres; a 5 day, 4 night Thanksgiving weekend getaway to a downtown Chicago condo overlooking Millennium Park and Monroe Harbor with limousine transportation to/from Chicago and a gift card for a dinner on the town; an elegant Hearts on Fire diamond pendant, from James & Sons Jewelers; a seven day/six night trip for six to Quail Run Resort in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with airfare; and, an amazing Sports Classic Collection package that included golf for 4 at Briar Ridge Country Club, tickets to games of the Chicago Bulls, Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Bears, Purdue, and Notre Dame, with sports memorabilia from Purdue, Notre Dame, Chicago Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks and sports cards featuring players from 1988 – 1995. Guests also had the opportunity to "bid" on Nazareth Home "Miracles" (an open opportunity to support a variety of unrestricted needs at the home). Winning bidders received a complimentary bottle of champagne, stylishly decorated with a commemorative Gala label and a sterling silver charm to thank the bidder for their support. Guests could also bid on over 130 Silent Auction items, including electronics, accessories, entertainment and sports items, home décor, and a variety of gift baskets donated by businesses and individuals alike.

Infants and children are placed at Nazareth Home through referrals from the Department of Child Services, and receive individualized care twenty-four hours a day. The children who come to Nazareth Home often have unique medical challenges that require the attention of trained and dedicated staff and volunteers. Nazareth Home is committed to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of these infants and children who are faced with extraordinary challenges in life as a result of being abandoned by, or removed from, families without the capacity to provide appropriate care. Sister Barbara Kuper, PHJC is the Director and Foster Mother at Nazareth Home.

The Gala Advisory Committee was chaired by Tom Collins, President of Collins Interests, Inc. He was assisted by committee members: Jane Bomberger, Reggie Dotson, Beth Kaminski, Sister Barbara Kuper, Karren Lee,

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Joanne Markiewicz, Hilda Pabey, Terry Quinn, Cindi Rucinski, Milt Triana, and Janice Moss-Woods. Collins received special recognition at the Gala for his long-time commitment and unwavering support of Nazareth Home.

The General Planning Committee was co-chaired by Judy Schlosser and Peggy Guernsey, and they were assisted by members Lillian Beasley, Gretchen Bray, Barbara Dabrowski, Leroy Fassett, Maria Orozco, Joyce Koch, Sister Barbara Kuper, Eileen McKern, Mary Paquin, Gloria Pestikas, and Deb Trelo. The proceeds from this annual fundraising event are dedicated for the operational costs of Nazareth Home.

Nazareth Home is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, and is administered by Ancilla Systems Incorporated.

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