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GREAT GIVING

DYS, FOCUS and Anne Grady Center raise funds

The staff, directors and supporters of Diabetes Youth Services (DYS) recently gathered to celebrate the hope and courage of young people living with diabetes at the “Sweet Success” fundraiser. The event’s lead sponsor was St. Luke’s Hospital, which recently invited the organization to take residence on its health care campus in Maumee.

Robin Condon, executive director of DYS, was thankful for St. Luke’s partnership.

“We are pleased to partner with a hospital that is so focused on community health and wellness,” Condon said. “Awareness of our programs and services has been positively impacted and ultimately more children and families benefit. It is a win-win for St. Luke’s, DYS and, most of all, children growing up in our area with diabetes.”

Condon estimated the event will net \$40,000 to fund the charity’s programs for children with diabetes. DYS is committed to teaching local children and their parents how to manage diabetes every day until there is a cure.

Local “Hollywood Stars” gathered for the Family Outreach Community United Services (FOCUS) “Salute to the Silver Screen Gala” to raise funds for the homeless in Northwest Ohio. The celebrities were kind-hearted supporters

of dressing as their favorite actor or character, and bid on donated live and silent auction items.

Among the sponsors of the event was Tire Man Auto Centers, which gave a monetary and an in-kind donation. Tire Man’s Randy Lake explained his interest in the organization: “FOCUS is not about putting a patch on problems, but it is about solving problems. They take someone who has issues and work them through those issues.”

From a business perspective, Lake said, “FOCUS turns a nonproductive member of society into a productive member of society.”

FOCUS Executive Director Kyle Grefe reported the event netted more than \$15,000 and increased support for the work of the organization.

“This is less than in years’ past — I really think the bad economy is making its impact known. But it was a great event, and always raises friends, and that’s very good,” he said.

Colorful ceramic houses, made by individuals at the Anne Grady Training & Work Center, greeted guests as they arrived to celebrate Anne Grady’s 20th annual “Enchanted Evening.” The ceramic houses were featured as part of the centerpieces and décor to tie into the evening’s theme of “Home is Where the

Heart Is ... Building A Home of Our Own.”

Among the businesses providing donations for “Enchanted Evening” were broadcast companies loaning their on-air talent for the evening. Jerry Anderson and Chrys Peterson from WTOL-TV were this year’s emcees and auctioneer, assisted by celebrity bid catchers Jay Berschback of WTVG-TV; Laura Emerson and Julia Johnston of WUPW-TV; and Gary Shores from country radio station K-100.

Anne Grady’s Dave Boston reported the event netted approximately \$80,000. Proceeds will go toward building a new group home for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Upcoming events

Nov. 21: Wine Affair. Now in its 17th year, the Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio’s Wine Affair allows patrons to taste rare fine wines, and bid on fine wine and art in live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$95. Visit kfnwo.org or call (419) 329-2196 for more information.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SENACK



■ TIRE MAN’S RANDY LAKE, FOCUS’ DAVID EDDY.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SENACK



■ FROM LEFT, ST. LUKE’S NANCY STEWART, MARTHA BERRY, VICKI RICHARDSON AND BECKY STAMPER WITH ROBIN CONDON OF DYS.