

Charity Ball Numbers TOP THE CHARTS

The 2011 St. Joseph's Foundation's Hospital Charity Ball "Diamonds in the Dust" event went far beyond the expectations in terms of dollars raised. The Live and Silent auctions raised over \$100,000 alone. Totals are still being tallied for expenses, but early estimates show that over \$120,000 was raised for equipment for the St. Joseph's Women's Clinic and the St. Joseph's Medical Clinic.

"It was so exciting," said Jodi Bosch, Foundation Director at St. Joseph's Hospital. "There was a great dynamic between bidders, and everyone was in a fun mood. Brad Fong helped out with the calling and he revved up the bidding with other callers, our auctioneer, Larry Schnell, and our emcee Bob Karn."

Tickets were sold-out and many of the guests dressed in the old west theme. Ray Veverka and his staff at the Elks provided a delicious dinner that fit in perfectly. Social Hour entertainment was provided by the "Dusty Hat Trio" and "Betty

Does" finished the evening.

"We were stunned by the generosity of our community," shared Brent Hanson, Assistant

Director at St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation. "This year several donors called in and offered items rather than being sought out, which demonstrates the positive feeling the community has for the hospital. Businesses and individuals gave great auction items and our cash sponsorship reached a new level. We're deeply grateful for their support."

The Charity Ball committee and Foundation Board members provided entertaining old west film clips featuring "Calamity Jodi," and "The Gamblers," as well as a silent movie.

"The movie out-takes were a favorite," laughed Amber Kuntz, one of the evening's guests. "It all went together so well

the night was over before we knew it. You can tell they work hard to make this a special event for the guests- even the auction was fun."

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do," explained Kathy Bren, 2011 Charity Ball Chairman. "We want to provide it all, and I think we did it this year, thanks to the overwhelming philanthropy of our guests. For example, at the end of the auction we had one item left, which was an add-on. Terry Dvorak from Charbonneau's had on this hilarious belt buckle that had the Dodge Ram name on it.

We convinced him to let us auction it off as the last item. While we were auctioning it, our tally taker pointed out that we were about \$4000 from having

raised \$100,000. The whole room was so excited! Kelly Armstrong of Reichert Armstrong and Quentin Kitzan from Big K Industries had been bidding on it, and it was at about \$1200 at that point. Larry (the auctioneer) asked if they'd go to \$4000. Quentin said "Let's split it," and Kelly said, "Sure, but you're keeping the buckle!"

Starla Odegaard, next year's Charity Ball Chair says that this year's event really set the bar high. "Steiers, Missouri Basin, Wyoming Casing, Charbonneau's-well there's really too many to mention-created such an environment of fast-paced bidding that time just flew. We've already begun planning next year's event and I'm in awe of the ideas coming out of the committee. I can't wait!"

Next year's Charity Ball will be November 17, 2012. If you'd like to order tickets or contribute an item you can call the Foundation office at 701-456-4746.



Dusty Hat Trio (Benny Paulson, Dennis Paulson, Casey Fredericks) started the evening off by serenading the guests with cowboy melodies.



Nic Stevenson buys a bag of gold nuggets for the raffle from "prospector," Ernie Shipe.



Missouri Basin Well Service and Wyoming Casing Service employees and spouses: Tony and Jessi Hauck, Duane and Kathy Jesch, Dave and Tiffany Guthmiller, Rocky and Missy Thompson, Kenny and Shirley Sample and Tim and Melissa Gross had a blast.



Cheryl Leach and Terry Boehm dressed in the "Diamonds in the Dust" theme.



L to R-Tom and Marie Arnold, Gene and Sue Jackson, Mike and Mary Maus and Jerry and Cindy Fisher pose in front of the St. Joesville bank.



Carol Kitzan displays the Ram belt buckle purchase by Kelly Armstrong of Reichert Armstrong and Quentin Kitzan of Big K Industries Inc., and donated by Terry Dvorak of Charbonneau Car Center.



Sheriff Tim Rosin, arrests bank robbers, Josh Nichols and Bethany Myran while saloon gal, Jackie Hope looks on.



Fred and Kathie Tooz bid on silent auction items.

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