

Restaurants Step up to the Plate for a Taste of Brunswick County CIS Benefit Gala for Children - October 22nd

Sunset Beach, NC (*October 28, 2009*) – Friends and supporters in attendance at the 8th Annual Benefit Gala for Children held Thursday, October 22, at Sea Trail Golf Resort and Convention Center raised vital funding to support the programs and services of Communities In Schools of Brunswick County, Inc. (CIS) while enjoying a festive evening of wonderful Brunswick County cuisine, and dancing the night away!

The black tie occasion offered an array of fabulous food displayed and served by local chefs from Baked With Love, Bart's BBQ (under new ownership), Bridge Pizza & Grill, Butcher of Brunswick (formerly Randy's Meat Center), Charlie Macgrooders, Jane's Seafood, Jumpin Java, Plaza Garibaldi, Provision Company at Holden Beach, Sugar Confections, Sunset Slush Italian Ice, SweeDeePie Cheesecakes, LLC, Taylor Cuisine Café & Catering, Inc., The Isles, The Purple Onion Cafe/ART Catering, and Twin Lakes Seafood Restaurant. The Boundary House not only provided delicious food, they wowed the attendees and took the award for the best interpretation of the table decorating theme "Kids Gone Coastal" by displaying a palm tree ornamented with live goldfish!

"Our supporters, friends, and volunteers who donate their time and services have made this event successful through the years," stated CIS Resource Development Director Mark Koval. "We raised between \$95,000 and \$100,000, including \$9,000 which will go directly to graduating seniors in the form of scholarships," he added.

Dr Anna Blizzard, CIS Board Member, was recognized as this year's Honorary Chair. She and her husband Dr. Daniel Blizzard of Ocean Isle Family Medicine were the Presenting Sponsors. There were 95 additional sponsors at various levels, 120 donors to the silent and live auctions, and 85 other supporters and volunteers who made the event so successful. Student volunteers from the Jr. ROTC and Teen Court attended the Gala to assist in greeting guests, clearing tables, and toting auction items.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Progress Energy Power of One Award. This award for dedication and commitment to the children and families of Brunswick County was given to the Shallotte Rotary and the South Brunswick Islands Rotary Clubs for their work with the CIS Peer Court program at Shallotte Middle School.

The Pat Carpenter Band played a variety of music into the night for the dancing and listening pleasure of the 500-550 attendees.

The live auction, conducted by Jon Evans, included a custom hand-made CIS quilt, homemade gourmet dinners, and cooking lessons by Chef Eric Masson of the Brentwood Restaurant in Little River.

Thanks to all who help Communities In Schools of Brunswick County continue to make a difference in the life of a child.

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