

A toast to good causes

Fall is filled to the brim with wine tastings and dinners for charity sake.

THE 25th Annual Mobile Meals Wine Gala was Nov. 3 at Stranahan Great Hall. The 330 attendees tasted wine from 16 distributors and hors d'oeuvres compliments of 11 businesses, including Chef Marcel Catering, Gordon Food Service, Mercy, ProMedica Toledo Hospital, Tiger Bakery, and Tony Packo's. Many shopped the silent auction before being seated for a tasty beef and chicken dinner accompanied with chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon.

For the "Silver Cellar" in honor of the organization's silver anniversary, 50 donated bottles of wine valued at \$1,200 were divided into two lots and raffled off.

Event chairman **Rob Snoad**, director of Food and Nutrition at Mercy St. Charles, welcomed everyone and thanked honorary chairman **Andrea Price**, CEO of Mercy.

Before bidding on items began, special honors went to **Ann Kisin** (Vintage Wine Distributors) and **Rick Kigar** (Kigar Auction & Realty) for their 25 years at the Wine Gala. **Ward Taylor** donated a 1990 Chateau Margaux valued at \$1,200. **Malcolm Richards** bought a number of vintages and **Denise** and **Tom Colturi** bought three cases of Italian wine. A total of \$70,000 was raised.

Among the wine aficionados were **Dan** and **Jasmine Wakeman**, **Bob** and **Kathie Maxwell**, **Marv** and **Nancy Robon**, **Bob** and **Sue Savage**, **Tom** and **Corrine Welch**, **Bob** and **Kathy Chirdon**, **Stephen** and **Rachelle Reed**, **Charlie** and **Carol Contrada**, **Bob** and **Mary Arquette**, and **John** and **Karen Yark**.

"THE Wine Affair Comes of Age" presented by the Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio in honor of its 21st year was Nov. 9 at Parkway Place. Black linen-covered tables decorated with silver and candles set the elegant scene.

Offering their spirits and specialties were nearly 20 wine distributors and restaurants including Bowling Green Beverage, Glazers, Heidelberg Distributing, W. Berman Wine Company, Cutting Edge Distributing, Abuelos, Burger Bar 419, Kotobuki, The Melting Pot, and Glass City Cup Cake.

A live auction and raffle prizes followed and included a trip to wine country in Sonoma Valley, art, wine, and more.

Honorary medical chairman **Allen Flickinger**, of Nephrology Consultants of Northwest Ohio, entertained guests as emcee. Honorary chairman **Jeannie Hylant** of The Hyland Group, who donated a kidney to a fellow worker a year ago, gave a heartfelt plea to consider donating a kidney. Those in support for her were the Hylant clan, including **Mike** and **Tina Hylant**, **Richard** and **Clare Hylant**, and **Sandra Hylant**.

Also among the 350 attendees were **Dave White, Jr.**, **Labib** and **Karen Hajjar**, and **John Hadley**. Event chairman **Tonya Robinson** an attorney at Spengler Nathanson reports an estimated \$70,000 netted is expected.



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THE Toledo Animal Shelter Auxiliary hosted a wine and cheese tasting Oct. 24 at Manhattan's Restaurant. In addition to the tastings there were raffle baskets, a door prize, and the sale of candy. Thanks to the 50 attendees, the event netted \$1,500.

"CELEBRATING the Love of Life" Wine Event to benefit ProMedica Hospice and Dementia Care took place Oct. 13 in the home of ProMedica president and CEO **Randy Oostra** and his wife **Barbara** and raised nearly \$150,000. Culinary creations by Evans Street Station with Coppola Wines were featured along with silent and live auctions.

Honorary chairman was **Russ Ebeid**, whose family is the namesake for Ebeid Hospice. Special guest was former Detroit Red Wings hockey great **Gordie Howe**, who attended with his son Dr. **Murray Howe** and wife **Colleen**.

Among the 330 notables were **Jim Findlay** and **P.J. Schaefer**, **Jim** and **Kay Murray**, **Frank Dick**, **Dave** and **Shelley Hickman**, **Tony** and **Mary Lou Falzone**, **Steve** and **Penny Staelin**, and **Jill** and **Larry Peterson**. Event chairman was **Kaiko Zureich**.

SAL'S Pals sixth annual wine tasting Oct. 12 at the Carranor Hunt & Polo Club netted \$8,500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The organization is named for **Sal Pinardo**, son of **Jenny** and **Rick Pinardo**, who founded the organization that works for a cystic fibrosis cure.

Appetizers, a wine grab, and a silent auction of children's art were featured for the 200 attendees, thanks to event chairman **Nikki Bazzoli** and her committee.

This event put a close to 10 years of fundraising for Sal's Pals so the committee, key volunteers, and Sal, now 11, are celebrating. Sal's Pals has raised \$762,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"That goes to show you there is something to say about the generosity of the Toledo community," said Mrs. Pinardo, who will be board president for the Metro Detroit and Northwest Ohio Cystic Fibrosis Chapter starting in 2013.

MARCH of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction: A recipe for healthy babies Oct. 1 at Parkway Place raised nearly \$70,000, which is just in time for Prematurity Awareness Month this month.

Emcee **Shaun Hegarty** of WTVG-TV, Channel 13, who received the services of the March of Dimes when one of his children was born, kept the evening rolling.

Thanked were honorary chairman **Jack Randolph**, president, ProMedica Insurance Corp., and event chairman **Kelsey Surface** of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

The 2012 Ambassador Family, **Nathan** and **Ashley Egbert**, shared their story of hope after losing twins, then having two full-term healthy babies.

Among the 340 attendees were **Bob** and **Kim LaClair**, **Sharon Speyer** and **Dean Monske**, **Mike** and **Kelly Hart**, **Garry Roberts**, **Lisa** and **John Hawker**, **Carla** and **Jeff Nowak**, **Steve** and **Mary Malia**, **John** and **Linda Meier**, and **John Christianson**.

The holidays are near. Having a party? Put me on your invitation list so I know in advance.



▲ **DAN WAKEMAN**, president and CEO of ProMedica St. Luke's Hospital, and his wife **JASMINE WAKEMAN** admire an ice sculpture wine display at the Mobile Meals 25th annual Wine Gala at Stranahan Great Hall.

THE BLADE/ZACK CONKLE



◀ Honorary chairman **ANDREA PRICE**, CEO of Mercy, and event chairman **ROB SNOAD** of Mercy St. Charles welcomed guests.

ANTHONY TSCHERNE



THE BLADE/ZACK CONKLE

▲ **VICKY** and **GEORGE BRYMER**, of the Image Group, at the Mobile Meals wine gala.



THE BLADE/ZACK CONKLE

▲ **ANTHONY SONGCO** and his wife **MARISSA** enjoy the flavorful fare.



▲ **CAROLYN RUGE**, left, mingles with event chair **TONYA ROBINSON**, center, and Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio executive director **HOLLY HOAGLAND-FOJTIK** during the 21st annual Wine Affair.

THE BLADE/KATIE RAUSCH



▲ **AUSTIN BEEMAN** was the wine chairman for the Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio's wine gala.



THE BLADE/KATIE RAUSCH

▲ **ARJUN**, left, and **SARADA DAS** at the Kidney Foundation's wine event.



THE BLADE/KATIE RAUSCH

▲ **ALLEN FLICKINGER** and his wife **MICHELE**.



▲ Mingling at the Toledo Animal Shelter Auxiliary's wine event were **PA-MELA ROBERTS** and **KATE KELLEY**, the event chairmen.

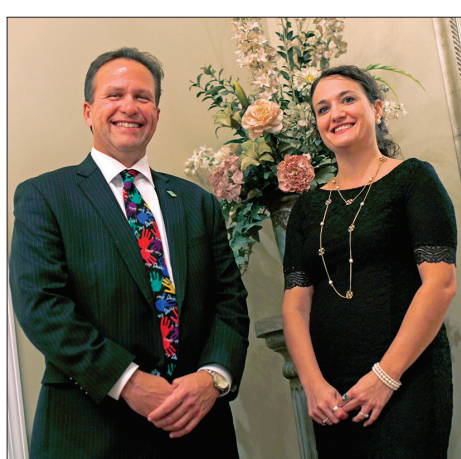


▲ **MARLENE UHLER** and **ISABEL MURRAY** taste the fabulous wines.



▲ Sal's Pals wine tasting volunteers, from left, **VICKY MALOY**, **FELICIA JIANNUZZI**, **NIKKI BAZZOLI**, event chairman, and **ERIN DZIERWA** show the children's art work they purchased.

◀ **JENNY** and **RICK PINARDO** and son **SAL** thanked everyone who came out to support the event.



THE BLADE/ZACH CONKLE

▲ The March of Dimes' Chefs Auction honorary chairman **JACK RANDOLPH** stands with event chairman **KELSEY SURFACE**.



THE BLADE/ZACH CONKLE

▲ **LISA HAWKER**, board chairman with March of Dimes, with her husband **JON**.