

Matthews House raised \$200K and counting at annual gala fundraiser, themed 'Butterfly Ball' for 2019

By Wendy Gabrek

Matthews House Hospice Alliston held its 9th annual premier fundraising event of the year, The Butterfly Ball, at the New Tecumseth Recreation Complex on Friday, September 27.

Brenda Pufek, Coordinator of Events and Engagement at MHH, and her team of Gala Committee volunteers, started planning for the event in May and chose the butterfly theme based on the hospice logo, and the journey of transformation.

At press time, the 2019 gala fundraiser had raised \$200,000 (and counting) including the ASK Auction in support of MHH's HUUG (Helping Us Understand Grief) program that raised \$97,000 allowing the program to now roll-out in South Simcoe. To date, the MHH's gala has raised over \$1.1 Million in support of compassionate programs and services.

Annual operating costs at MHH exceed \$2.6 Million.

'We receive a portion of funds from Ministry of Health that covers 62 per cent of nursing costs in residence,' said Andrea Roylance, Gifts and Gratitude, MHH. 'That means we must fund raise \$1.6 million annually.'

Entertainment this year was provided by New Hollywood, and live auction auctioneers were Frances and Mark from Onit Canada. New this year, catering was provided by David Mintz Catering, nominated for Best Caterer in Ontario.

Special auction items this year included:

' Garden Shed from Lee Sheds

' Autographed Kyle Lowry jersey, compliments of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment

' Autographed Nazem Kadri jersey, donated by Al Newton and Corey Kee in memory of Tracy Kee

' Autographed Matt Murray jersey, donated by the Pittsburgh Penguins

' Two Gold seats for the Toronto / Philadelphia game ? Nov. 9, donated by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment

' Pair of Centre Ice Platinum tickets for Leafs home game

during the regular season 2019/2020, donated by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment

? Antique car original artwork by local artist Sandy Brand, donated by Sandy Brand

? Private screening for 26 people at The Circle Theatre

? Draft Horses lawn decor, Cheryl Nuttal

Winners at this years event include:

? Vel Corlett ? winner, diamond tennis bracelet donated by Rose Taylor of Rose Taylor's Jewellers.

? Margo Cooney ? winner, wheelbarrow of wine.

?A huge thanks to RBC Foundation and the Alliston branch for their donation of \$10,000 to support our HUUG Program,? said Roylance. ?RBC is a loyal donor that continues to support Matthews House programs. We are so very grateful.?

The next event for MHH is a Charity Fashion Show on November 14, at the hospice.

?We are excited to announce we will be hosting the Polo For Hospice event in August 2020,? said Roylance. Check back soon with The Times for more details.

For more information about Matthews House Hospice visit www.matthewshousehospice.ca