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On the Scene

Deliver The Dream's 'Denim & Diamonds Gala' raised \$157,000

November 24, 2010

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Denim threads, diamond glitz and donations were among the featured attractions at Deliver the Dream's "Seventh Annual Denim & Diamonds Gala: A Night of Nostalgia."

More than 400 guests celebrated at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa on Oct. 30 and raised \$157,000. These funds will help support the organization's family retreat program for families facing serious illness or crisis in Florida and North Carolina in 2011.

The evening featured a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, fund-a-dream, dancing and big band tunes by the Bob Hoose Orchestra. The gala also featured a surprise performance by "Lucy and Ricky Ricardo."

The event included the premiere of the Deliver the Dream 2011 retreat video featuring Patricia and Vincent Spilaggh-Coleman, who recently attended a Deliver the Dream retreat for children with cerebral palsy. Once the video ended, guests were able to personally applaud Patricia and Vincent, who were in attendance as very special guests.

"The gala was awesome. We were thankful for even being there," said Patricia. "The video was heart-breaking but we had a great time - good memories and great people on the retreat."

Two companies that helped complete the night were GREY GOOSE Vodka, which donated their ultra-premium vodka and also the entire Bacardi portfolio, and Field of Flowers who donated centerpieces and stage pieces, as well as departing gifts of orchid bouquets.

"I am immensely proud of the evening's success. We were able to raise significant funds to help families dealing with illness and crisis," says Paul Whitrow, the organization's executive director. "I truly believe everyone in attendance enjoyed their 'Denim & Diamonds' experience and realized that with their help - we were all responsible for 'helping families heal... one retreat at a time.'"

Gala sponsors included Watchbox, A Wells Fargo Company; GREY GOOSE Vodka, 22 Squared, Moore, Elinch & Neal P.A., Coventry Health Care of Florida and Clinix Systems, Inc.

For more information on Deliver the Dream visit <http://www.deliverthedream.org>.

Last chance to win a Wii for the holidays. Our contest ends tonight at midnight!

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