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FIRST ANNUAL OLDSMAR CARES GALA RAISES \$30,550 FOR FAMILIES IN GREATER OLDSMAR AREA

RESIDENTS OF OLDSMAR DEMONSTRATES THEIR COMMITMENT TO HELPING FAMILIES

On Thursday, February 10th, residents of Greater Oldsmar came out in force to help support their neighbors in need at the first annual Oldsmar Cares International Wine & Food Gala. Oldsmar Cares raised \$30,550 during the event and Bay News 9 reporter Virginia Johnson was an outstanding Mistress of Ceremonies. Guests were greeted by ballet students from the Tampa Bay Ballet as they arrived for the evenings festivities.

The event boasted ten gold level sponsors including Best Buy, City of Oldsmar, Nielsen, Oldsmar Women's Club, Republic Services, Rotary Club of East Lake, Rotary Club of Oldsmar, Saint Petersburg Times, StellarNet Inc and TECO. The night featured live music and an international selection of food and wine by local restaurants including A Piece of Cake, Applebees, Baby Cakes & More, Boston Cooker, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chef Li, Eggstyle, Fratelli's, Lynn's Catering, The Melting Pot, and Pollo Tropical. To compliment these mouth-watering delicacies attendees sipped samples of wine from Barefoot Wine and Spirits, PRP Wines and Southern Wine and Spirits.

The event was held at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club and was attended by over 350 residents and civic leaders. "We are pleased to see so many residents coming out to support Oldsmar Cares and their continued investment in our community," said **Jim Ronecker**, Oldsmar Mayor. "I applaud the efforts of the hard working volunteers and residents who have donated to help those who have fallen on hard times and are in need."

The evening began with a silent auction featuring an impressive list of items including dining packages, golf at well known courses and autographed memorabilia donated by the Buccaneers and Tampa Bay Lightning. The evening's door price was twelve dinner-for-two gift certificates, donated by the event's restaurant sponsors.

The live auction, featuring the entertaining, Vice-Mayor Doug Bevis as auctioneer, boasted an incredible list of items including a 3 night getaway to Sands of Islamorada Resort in the fabulous Florida Keys, luxury cottage in Sparkle Lake, Highlands, North Carolina, and a weekend behind the wheel of a \$145,000 Tesla or Porsche Boxter which were on display for the evening.

Donna and Kevin Fosbrook, an Oldsmar family who had recently received aid spoke at the event – the family was helped by Oldsmar Cares following a house fire which destroyed everything they owned last December. “We are so very grateful for the support we received from Oldsmar Cares,” said **Kevin Fosbrook**. “As active members of our community we have always tried to give back, but never in our wildest dreams did we think it could happen to us and that we would be in need of assistance. The generosity of our friends and neighbors here in Oldsmar will never be forgotten.”

For more information, please visit www.OldsmarCares.org/gala. To connect with the online community, simply join the “Oldsmar Care Gala” Facebook Fan Page to view a photo slideshow from the event.

About Oldsmar Cares Second Annual Gala: Next year’s Gala will be held on February 9th, 2012 at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. “We are already planning next year’s event,” said **David Wallace**, Oldsmar Cares Gala event co-chair. “The volunteer committee was so pleased with the success that the momentum has spilled over into next year's planning. We look forward to coming together as a community for what many are calling the social event of the year.”

About Oldsmar Cares: Oldsmar Cares is a 5.01(c)(3) all volunteer organization with a mission to provide stop gap rent and utility assistance, a food pantry, and a clothes closet, all at no cost, to those in need in the greater Oldsmar area.

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