



Herkimer Area Resource Center

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The Community Resource Enriching Lives of People with Disabilities and Their Families . . . Since 1969

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HARC'S 2008 WINE AUCTION NETS A RECORD \$90,482

The 13th Annual New York International Wine Auction (NYIWA), held November 15th at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, set yet another record netting a whopping \$90,482 to assist the HARC in helping people with disabilities to achieve full potential and to live enriched lives.

HARC Executive Director Kevin Crosley commented, "Just before our auction, two auctions were cancelled due to the economy — one in San Francisco, one in Chicago. NYIWA is a testament to the generosity of the people of the Mohawk Valley. Not only did we raise a record amount of money, we also had a record number of people attend the event. The individuals who support our auction, from our sponsors, wineries, businesses, private donors and guests, realize NYIWA is just an enchanting event for a very worthwhile cause."

Crosley explained the proceeds would be used to provide services that are either underfunded or receive no funding at all at the state and federal levels. Two such programs at HARC are funded solely from proceeds from NYIWA. The Guardianship and Spirituality programs provide legal services and representation, and nondenominational spiritual activities, respectively, for people with disabilities.

NYIWA 2009 is slated for Saturday, November 21. HARC is working in concert with the Otesaga Hotel to plan a weekend of events including accommodations, a sponsor event, international wine tastings, wine



At a special Friday night event before NYIWA, sponsored by HARC's Circle of Friends, wine makers from around the country greeted guests and sponsors to talk about their wines. Several wine makers took time to take a photo, including from left, 2008 NYIWA Honorary Chairperson Dick Grace of Grace Family Vineyards of St. Helena, CA; Sommelier Johannes Neckermann of Château Neckermann of Dundee, NY; Ty Caton of Ty Caton Vineyards, Sonoma, CA; and Hermann J. Weimer, consultant to Hermann J. Weimer Vineyards of Dundee, NY.

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HARC'S WINE EVENT NETS A RECORD/2-2-2

seminars—all culminating in spectacular silent and live auctions and a grand gourmet dinner on Saturday evening.

NYIWA's 2008 top ten bidders include: Harrison "Chip" and Judy Hummel, Frank and Dominica Annese, John and Paula Sherman, Jesse and Ivy Bailey, Robert and Violet Morris, Lisa De Frees, Rudy Scialdo and Deborah Tayler, Dr. James and Karen Elting, Dr. Robert Lancey and Lisa Manna, and Drew and Donna Goodbread.

Sponsors for 2008 included: Premier Sponsor MVP Health Care; Annese & Associates, First Source Federal Credit Union, ConMed Corporation, Scalzo, Zogby and Wittig, Inc., John and Jeanie Scarzafava, WKTV, WXUR/WNRS, Neckermann Consulting, Jill Rae Signs, M & T Bank, Crystal Chandelier Restaurant, Adonis-Avanti Limousine Service, Inc., NBT Bank, REM Fire Systems, Inc., The Bonadio Group, Jim Brock Agency, Waterfront Grille, Mohawk Valley Florist, Omnicare of New York, LLC, Romanelli Advertising Design, Inc., Leonard Bus Sales, Inc., Mohawk Valley Printing Co., Yetty's Pizza, AmeriCU Credit Union, and Erie Materials.

Circle of Friends, a membership fundraising organization working to build an endowment fund at HARC, also hosted special donors and NYIWA sponsors at a Friday evening event. The event featured chefs from local restaurants, preparing their special dishes for guests.

For more information about becoming involved with NYIWA 2009 as a sponsor, donor, guest or volunteer, contact Tony Vennera at (315) 866-2920 or tvennera@herkimerarc.org. For more information and photos of NYIWA 2008, visit www.nyiwa.com.