



NEWS RELEASE

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The Women's Event Raises More Than \$260,000 for Gilda's Club St. Louis

ST. LOUIS – the recent benefit fund-raiser “The Women’s Event...*Not Just For Women Anymore!*” was a smashing success for the newly established provisional chapter of Gilda’s Club in St. Louis. The event raised over \$260,000 for the establishment of a new Club house for the St. Louis affiliate.

The evening’s biggest surprise was the raffle winner, Edward Jones’ Principal for Canadian Operations Gary Reamy, who happened to be in St. Louis for meetings, heard about the event at the Ritz-Carlton St. Louis and decided at the last minute to attend the event. Reamy purchased over \$1,000 worth of raffle tickets for a spectacular set of His & Hers watches (a Rolex Cellini for him and a beautiful Austern and Paul for her) generously donated by Genovese Jewelers. After the November 14th event, Reamy made good on his promise to send in an additional donation for Gilda’s Club St. Louis, recently sending the charitable organization a \$10,000 check. Reamy said that he wanted to send Gilda’s Club St. Louis the donation because his significant other has been fortunate enough to survive breast cancer twice.

Notes Gilda's Club St. Louis Board President Virginia McDowell, "Mr. Reamy's donation is truly what we refer to as a 'little bit of Gilda's magic.' How fortunate we were that he happened to be staying at the hotel at the same time we were holding our inaugural Women's Event!"

An audience of over 500 men and women enjoyed the presentation by Alan Zweibel, the evening's keynote speaker. Zweibel, an author and Emmy award-winning writer, related his memories about the start of the original *Saturday Night Live* creative team and of his close friend Gilda Radner, in whose honor Gilda's Club was originally created.

The local highlight of this year's Event was the inaugural Spirit of Hope Award, which was presented to noted St. Louis pediatric oncologist Dr. Robert Bergamini.

Gilda's Club Board Vice President and Event Co-Chair Dr. Madhavi Kandula, notes, "We were thrilled that this wonderful charitable event was open to both women and men for the first time this year, and the change made quite a difference in the amount of interest and money raised for Gilda's Club St. Louis."

For more information about the recent Women's Event or Gilda's Club St. Louis, the public may contact the organization at (314) 395-8200 or visit the Gilda's Club St. Louis web site at www.gildasclubstl.org.

About Gilda's Club St. Louis

Gilda's Club St. Louis is part of a network of 22 clubhouses across the United States and Canada and 8 additional clubhouses, including St. Louis, in development welcoming all whose lives have been touched by cancer - men, women and children, their families and friends at any stage of the cancer experience. When opened, GCSTL will offer a comprehensive program of free lectures, workshops, social activities, support and networking groups as an essential supplement to medical care. For more information, visit the GCSTL website: www.gildasclubstl.org or call 314-395-8200

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