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Event, donations keep growing

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LAKE VILLA – The characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby” are known for their moral shallowness and monetary prowess. The participants of the Gatsby Garden Party charity event for Kids Hope United on April 20 might have wore the opulent clothing of the Gatsby generation, but they proved to be anything but morally shallow.

The event made thousands of dollars for Kids Hope United – a private, human resource organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. The money will fund its foster care, family preservation, and counseling services.

To build upon the event’s Gatsby theme, Kids Hope United holds the event at the Lehmann Mansion, which was restored to its former glory by Lake Villa.

“The mansion is the perfect place for this event,” Kids Hope United Executive Director Joyce Heneberry said, “I feel like I’ve stepped back into time when I walk through it.”

The setting for this event strays very far from the charity’s beginnings. Heneberry said the first event was in the basement of a church with about 25 attendees.

“We knew from the beginning that we were doing something right with this event,” Heneberry said, “Every year it got bigger and bigger.”

Kids Hope United holds auctions to raise much of the charity’s donations. Event participants kicked off the party by browsing the silent auction’s 200-plus items.

“An army of about 20 woman search year round for this stuff,” Heneberry said.

Some auction items were tickets to professional sports games; others were trips to exotic places and restaurants. A spoken auction took place for the more valuable items, including a Packers helmet signed by Brett Favre.

“Some people tell me this is the best auction they have ever been to,” Heneberry said.

Participants also got to watch the Blue Ribbon Fashion Show, and some fashion show participants donned clothing from the 1920s to go with the event’s Gatsby theme.



Abby Bergl, 3, of Antioch, models her sundress from the Spotted Crocodile in Grayslake during the Gatsby’s Garden Party fifth Annual Blue Ribbon Fashion Show at the Lehmann Mansion in Lake Villa. Proceeds benefit Kids Hope United. (Candace H. Johnson photo)

COMMENTS

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