

Auction goes over top, raises \$600,000

The 10th anniversary edition of the Channel 56 Auction, which completed its nine-day run Saturday, is the most successful sell-off of donated merchandise in the public TV station's history, raising an all-time high of \$636,497.

"This is a 19 per cent increase over last year's "Great TV Auction" total of \$534,878.

The station exceeded its \$600,000 goal despite having to shorten the

hours of the auction in the final two days to conserve incoming merchandise. However, the station put out a final call for donations which was responded to promptly by area merchants.

Channel 56's warehouse was then replenished with enough merchandise, to carry the auction through its scheduled Saturday night sign-off.

ON HAND to bring the fundraiser to

a close were general chairwoman Joan Hicks, official host Bob Talbert of the Detroit Free Press and hundreds of volunteers.

The concluding totals show that of the 68 public television stations that held auctions, Channel 56 ranks fourth in dollars raised, behind New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Joan Hicks, a 10-year auction veteran who, as general chairwoman, headed the volunteer force, said,

"With the wrap-up of the 10th auction, Channel 56 and the community which supports it have passed a major milestone.

"We offer our thanks to the viewers and bidders, the merchandise donors, the celebrity auctioneers, the supportive media and the hard-working volunteers and staff."

Station General Manager James Christianson stated: "Revenue from

the auction will help cover our broadcast expenses for the coming year. Through their support, the citizens of southeastern Michigan and southern Ontario showed us that they value the public TV programming that Channel 56 provides."

Auction manager Honey Friedman noted that past auctions have contributed more than \$3.5 million to the support of non-commercial Channel 56.

Other major sources of funding include individual viewer contributions (for almost half the station's budget) and grants from local foundations and corporations and the federal government.

Proceeds help make possible the broadcast of public television shows like "Sesame Street," "Dick Cavett," "Monty Python" and "Masterpiece Theatre."

Jazz group to play in Novi

The Novi High School Band Boosters and the Novi Foundation for the Performing Arts have made arrangements for Brookside Jazz Ensemble to perform on stage at the Novi High School Auditorium on May 7 at 7 p.m.

Brookside is a metropolitan Detroit area jazz band made up of 21 professional musicians dedicated to contemporary "Big Band" music. Ursula Walker is a featured attraction of the band and a jazz singer.

Sell-out concerts are commonplace for the band, whether on stage at Meadow Brook or poolside at the Pontchartrain, where they perform in the summer.

Reserved tickets are available by contacting Craig Strain at Novi High School, 348-5157.

Location changed for final concert

A change in location has been announced for the Pontiac Oakland Symphony Orchestra concert scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday. The concert, originally set for Pontiac Northern High School, instead will be held at Warner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

The orchestra, under the direction of David Daniels, will play Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in E Flat Major.

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