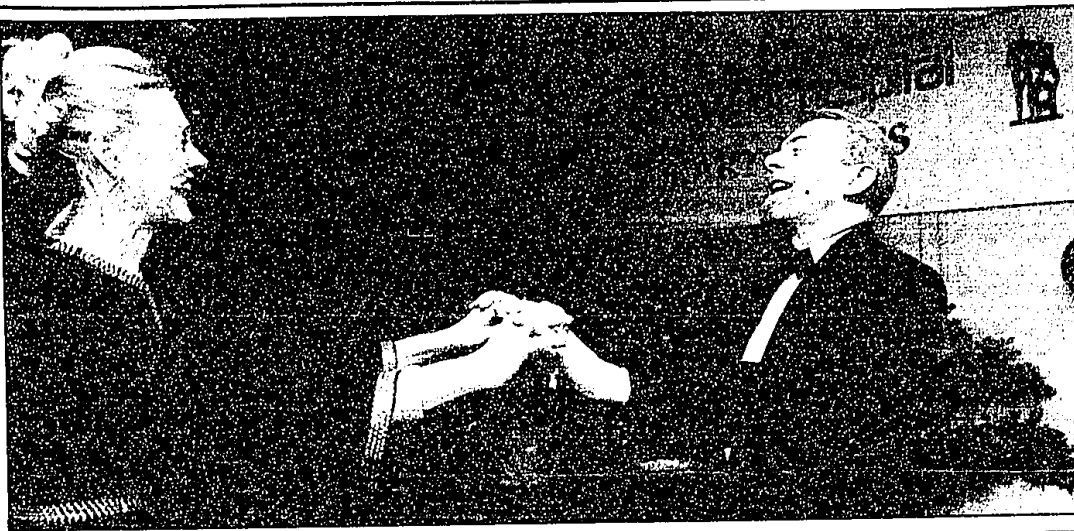


Having a dance: Gloria and Richard Pullman enjoy a dance at the Cornucopia Ball.



Ball from page 1A

"I was happy to be able to participate and I thought we'd have a good turnout, but when Botsford and Harold Bertek (of Bertek Corporation) gave such strong support, it was a springboard."

Councilwoman Nancy Bates, who pushed for the youth program, said her biggest concern was the short time (about three months) for planning the event.

"The community really stepped up to the plate on this one," she said.

Todd Lips, a longtime champion of youth programs and recently hired by the city to supervise the new youth center program, said the event proved more successful than his optimistic prediction.

"I went around in a tux for a week to promote this," he said. "I think it mirrored our youth program. People are coming up with an idea, but until someone makes a commitment, it's hard to get it going. When Gersh Cooper (Botsford CEO) stepped up with a

■ The event attracted about 185 people, who paid \$100 each to wine, dine and dance while raising money for the Farmington Hills Community Fund that will fund a new program that provides teens a place to enjoy wholesome activities.

\$10,000 sponsorship for three years, we knew we really had to make it work."

Cooper, who convinced the Botsford board of directors to sign on for \$30,000 over three years, said the ball and foundation are the type of community outreach that squares with the hospital's mission.

He said the hospital and its health network has become more involved in activities and programs that produce wellness. Programs that give teens healthful activities benefit the community and Botsford's mission of health care, not "sick care," he said.

"I wasn't sure how it would come off, considering it was the first time," he said. "But everything, from the valet parking, to the dinner to the music, was first class."

Cooper said he was not surprised at the event's success. "You had a golf outing (to benefit widows and orphans of Farmington Hills police) that was a big success its very first time," he said. "That shows, I think, that this is a community that cares."

Bates said she sees the ball as a way in which the community can put on a social event that has a heart.

"People are going to feel like this is their program," Bates said. "I think people want share our concern about kids, but they're not quite sure what to do about it."



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMMON

Toasting the table: Al Abdullah (right) proposes a toast to tablemates (from left) Robin Palmer, Bridget Moloney, Mark Coffey, Sheri Lord, Anita Coffey and Paul Wallace. All are Farmington Hills residents.



Greetings: Aldo Vagnozzi (above left), recently elected mayor of Farmington Hills, says hello to Gerson Cooper and Margo Gorchow of Botsford Hospital during the inaugural Cornucopia Ball. At right, Hills Councilwoman Nancy Bates has a few words to say to ball-goers.



All smiles: Todd Lips, known for his work with Team Farmington, looks happy to be at the ball.

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