

County comes through for benefit

BY JANICE TIGAR-KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER

For the second year, Oakland County residents generously supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 65 Roses Ball, a black-tie fund-raiser sponsored by the agency's metro-Detroit chapter. The Oct. 19 fund raiser at Wabook Country Club in Bloomfield Hills drew 176 people and raised more than \$52,000 for cystic fibrosis research, said

Shari Peters, special events director for the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Troy.

The second annual 65 Roses Ball was especially exciting, Peters said, because researchers are "on the threshold of a cure" for cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder that kills more children and young adults in the United States than any other genetic disease.

"We've made great strides in cystic fibrosis research," Peters said. "Researchers have located the gene that causes the disease, so a cure is coming. As fund raisers, we'd like nothing more than to be out of a job by next year."

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Cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease, affects mucous glands, sweat glands, the pancreas and other tissues. In 1989, researchers in Michigan and Toronto identified the cystic fibrosis gene, a breakthrough that leads to early diagnosis through genetic testing.

Lori Roth of West Bloomfield, co-chair of 65 Roses Ball, said the amount of money raised through ticket sales and the fund raiser's auction is overwhelming. The event's co-hosts were Jimmy Barrett of WXYT-AM Radio

and news anchor Sherry Margolis of WJBK-TV (Channel 2). For cash donations, Chad Myers of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) sold "breath of life" balloons.

"We're extremely excited about the money raised for further research. We didn't expect such grand support," said Roth, a mother of four, including a 2-year-old son with cystic fibrosis.

In addition to gleaming donations for medical research the fund raiser helped educate guests about cystic fibrosis. Dr. Richard Simon of the University of Michigan, the keynote speaker, talked about a young cystic fibrosis patient who recently married. Research has helped him live, the doctor said, but only a cure will keep him alive.

"His words were heartwarming," Roth said. "So many people think kids will outgrow cystic fibrosis, but you can't outgrow this disease."

Besides working with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Roth said she may work to get Michigan and other states to require genetic testing for the disease. "So much can be done for newborns early on, but only if we know they have cystic fibrosis," she said.

To make a donation to the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, or to become a corporate sponsor of next year's 65 Roses Ball, call Shari Peters at (810) 524-2873.

WMU names scholarship

Western Michigan University has named a scholarship for Barry L. Howard, Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Oakland County Circuit Court. The Barry L. Howard Medallion Scholarship is a four-year, \$25,000 undergraduate scholarship. While many of the scholarships are named for the benefactors who fund them, a select few, including Judge Howard's, are named for persons the university wishes to honor.

Judge Howard has served on the Oakland Circuit Court since 1989 and as the Court's Chief Judge Pro Tem since January. In June, Judge Howard received the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award. He also received the 1996 Distinguished Service Award from the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

Prior to becoming a judge, Howard was an attorney for 22 years.

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