

Thankful

Cloverdale auction nets funds to help students

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ec.homecomm.net

Carolyn Das is thankful for what the Cloverdale Developmental Center did to help her son. So she didn't mind making a huge bid for one of the available items during the Friday, Oct. 2, silent auction to benefit the center.

Her son, now 7, spent four years at Cloverdale before being "mainstreamed" at William Grace Elementary School, said Das, one of about 160 people to attend the Parent/Entry Partnership-hosted function at Longacre House.

"Cloverdale is a wonderful organization," said Das. "And getting the community to support it is just absolutely imperative to its success. These kids need support as much as the general education students, maybe more."

Help is on the way, with Das and other auction-goers doing their part. After checking out various items in an upstairs room at the auction, she decided to bid \$100 for a birthday party for 10 with Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

That was \$25 more than the last person to bid and \$23 more than the minimum bid of \$2. During the auction, participants wrote their names and respective bids on sheets of paper that corresponded with each of the 125 items.

Many others were just as generous, helping raise \$26,000 for Cloverdale, which houses 84 severely mentally impaired and severely multiply impaired students between ages 3-26. About \$15,000 of that amount was generated by bids; another \$11,000 in

donations were also received, said PEP member Marianne Tucker of Farmington Hills.

Pleasant surprises

Tucker named two other big, unexpected donations. Parent Deb Veroncke chipped in all \$740 of her winnings in the auction's 50-50 raffle while an anonymous donor contributed a big screen TV worth \$4,500.

The money, which far exceeded the original goal of \$10,000, will help purchase adaptive learning and media equipment.

"The kids are the winners," said a beaming Cloverdale principal Roger Martin, extremely satisfied with the turnout and result of the first annual auction.

Members of PEP were also almost awestruck by the auction's successful outcome. "We were just flabbergasted with the whole thing," Tucker said last week, after proceeds were tallied. "We can't wait to go shopping for the kids ... We're going to show for every penny of it."

"The things we'll be able to do for the kids as a result of this event, the children will really appreciate," said Deb Ferguson.

For those who helped make the auction a big hit, such as Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield, the night was a lot of fun, too. Maxfield made repeated bids on a Toledo Mud Hens baseball package, which he wanted to obtain for his son.

He upped the ante to \$30, after seeing that someone else had put a bid in on the package since



STAFF PHOTOS BY BOB JENSEN

Goodies: Dave Zurvalec, Sue Zurvalec and Sue Duquette browse tables that are full of auction items.

the last time he did.

"I am determined," said Maxfield, who earlier made bids of \$10, \$15 and \$20 on the four box seats and autographed roster card. "I am obsessed with this thing."

That package, which Maxfield eventually secured as part of a varied collection available to the participants. Many items were donated to the cause by area businesses.

Good choices

For example, upstairs, were items such as: a dozen bagels and cream cheese every month October through March at the Benn and Bagel, valued at about \$22; dinner at the Relish Grill, a \$30 deal.

Sports memorabilia featured a baseball autographed by Detroit Tigers pitcher Todd Jones, and a team-autographed Detroit Shock basketball.

Downstairs, near the Mud Hens item, was a framed jersey signed by basketball legend Larry Bird. Among the bidders was Jim Miller, who made repeated entries for the jersey. With less than an hour to go in the event, he had made bid tries of \$125, \$185 and \$245.

Miller - and Maxfield - demonstrated an auction trend. People who really wanted something made it a point of circulating back to those items to see if anybody else put in a bid. If so, they could write their name down again. Near the end of the evening, successful bidders - meaning whoever bid last, and most, on items before the final deadline -

were announced by master of ceremonies Terry Lyles.

Acknowledging the "repeat customer" trend was participant Greg Perry, who called the auction "a wonderful event, a truly noble cause by a lot of dedicated people."

"A silent auction is less pressure and it's really fun," noted Das. "It promotes one-upmanship."



What do you want? Piper Boyd and Susan Campbell look over the auction items. Beanie Babies were a special favorite for auction-goers.

FREE "LIVING TRUST" SEMINAR

"What You Ought to Know About Living Trusts"

(What you don't know could cost your family thousands of dollars!)

If you own a home...or you have assets worth at least \$100,000...or you owe it to yourself—and your family—to get the facts on living trusts. If you think you're protected with a simple Will...think again...A Will guarantees that your estate will go through probate, which means that your family may not be able to take possession of your estate for many months, or even years!

Plus, if your estate is over \$625,000, your family may owe estate taxes which could amount to 37-55% of the value

of your estate. This means that your family may have to sell some assets just to pay the estate taxes!

A living trust avoids all this by avoiding probate and minimizing estate taxes. Plus, a living trust will protect your estate if you become incapacitated during your lifetime by avoiding a conservatorship. This means your estate will be managed as you see fit, not as a court-appointed guardian sees fit.

To find out more about the benefits of living trusts, attend one of these free seminars...

FREE SEMINARS

WESTLAND

Tues., Oct. 13
10:00-11:30 am
Coffee & Cookies
Bailey Recreation Center
36651 Ford Road

MILFORD

Wed., Oct. 14
7:00-8:30 pm
Coffee & Cookies
Baker's of Milford
2025 S. Milford Road

WIXOM

Thurs., Oct. 15
10:00-11:30 am
Coffee & Cookies
Wixom Community Center
49015 Pontiac Trail

FARMINGTON

Tues., Oct. 20
10:00-11:30 am
Coffee & Cookies
Farmington Community Library
32737 W. Twelve Mile Road

ROCHESTER

Thurs., Oct. 22
10:00-11:30 am
Coffee & Cookies
Rochester Community House
816 Lindlaw

LIVONIA

Thurs., Oct. 22
7:00-8:30 pm
Coffee & Cookies
Livonia Civic Center Library
32777 Five Mile Road

Refreshments Served—Plenty of free parking. Please arrive early, seating may be limited.

When you attend one of these seminars, you'll receive a FREE, 1-hour consultation with an attorney (worth \$150), so you can find out how a living trust will benefit you.

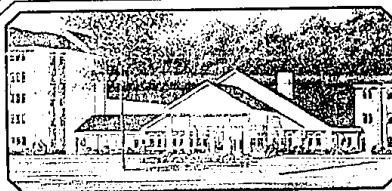
Law Offices of Einheuser & Florka, P.C.
2626 Woodward Ave. • Royal Oak, MI 48067

The attorneys at Einheuser & Florka speak to area residents about living trusts and proper estate planning. They are members of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys—and their seminars are "informative & easy-to-understand."



ESTABLISHED 1960
LIVONIA
ATTORNEYS
& ACCOUNTANTS

Don't Delay - Call (248) 398-1800 Now to Reserve Your Seat!
(24-hour Seminar Reservation Line)




Our Independence Plus ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS enhance your lifestyle

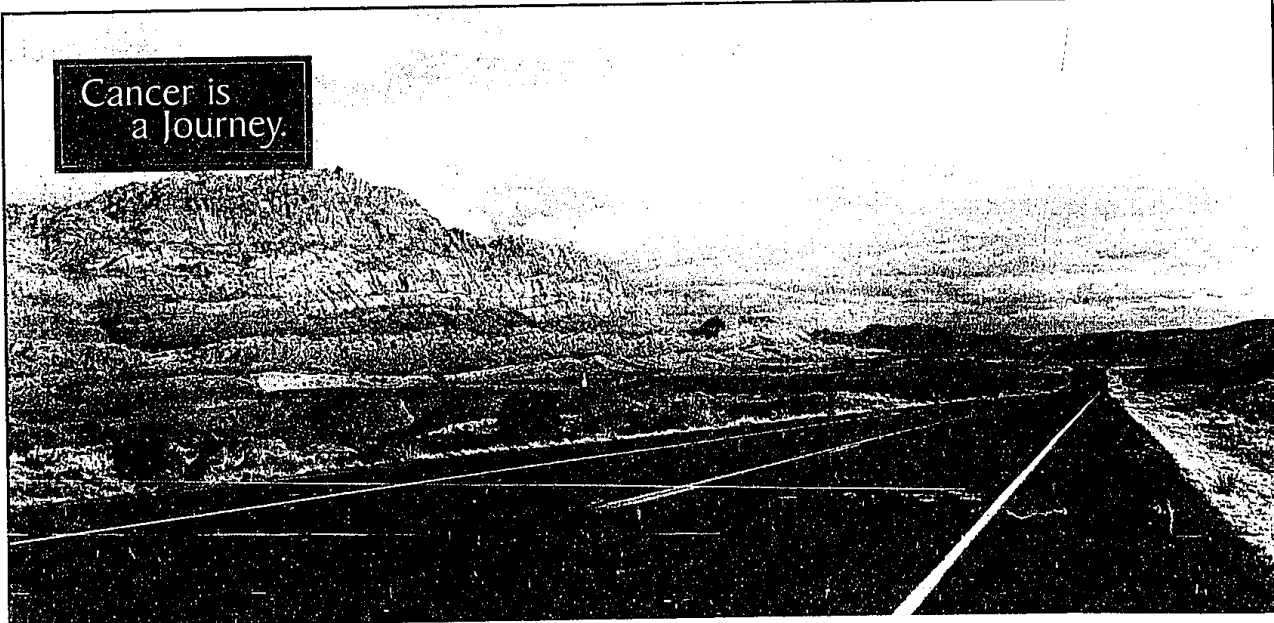
For more information, please call
734-453-2600 or 1-800-803-5811
14707 Northville Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170
Marketing by R.M. One, Ltd.

Plymouth Independence Village is committed to caring for you

Plus...

- Three meals daily
- Bathing assistance
- Daily housekeeping
- 24-hour staffing
- Emergency call system
- Personal laundry service
- Medication reminders
- Transportation
- Personal Assistance





Cancer is a Journey.

Explore Alternate Routes.

What will you find on down the road? Ask us. We'll give you the latest on diagnosis, treatment options and clinical trials...or help you get a second opinion. Use the facts to chart your course.

Cancer AnswerLine: 1-800-865-1125

Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Michigan
Health System

