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BRIDGE YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES DINNER DANCE

The Essence of Tuscany is a Success worth Celebrating

Monday, April 20, 2009, Palatine, IL When was the last time that you laughed and cried in the same evening? When you and your friends toasted each other and the wine and good spirits flowed? When you made new acquaintances and rejoined old friends? When you reached out to those in need and gave them a helping hand? When you played games and delighted in both winning and losing, because you knew that whatever you might have lost was really your gain? When you dined on gourmet food and drink? When you strolled among Tuscan sunflowers and beautifully decorated scenery, and the drive home lasted only a few minutes? Had you attended The Essence of Tuscany, The Bridge Youth & Family Services annual dinner dance, your answer would be clear.

The laughter came from the camaraderie of guests at The Essence of Tuscany. The tears came from the video that showed a young man who, with the help of Patti Reid, staff therapist at The Bridge, and many others, has journeyed from a situation where he tried to end his life to a point where he is now able and willing to help others. This is one of many success stories that The Bridge has helped shepherd through its forty-four year history. And this is the secret of winning a losing game or raffle prize at The Bridge dinner dance. The money that was lost went to make our community a better place to live. The Bridge helps young people and their families achieve social and emotional health. They do it often, and they do it well.

But since everybody loves a winner, it would be a shame not to let you know who walked away with the raffle money. Linda Wilson walked away with \$1,000. Dan Cates' lucky ticket netted him \$2,500, and Amy Vineyard, along with Jennifer Krause and Katie Kupka, came up with the big \$5,000 prize. And we are all the richer for The Bridge Youth & Family Services, and for The Essence of Tuscany.

How did this joyous and worthwhile event take place? Volunteers staffed the registration table. Volunteers designed, implemented and placed the decorations. Volunteers obtained auction items, corporate sponsorships, designed and wrote the program book, choose music, shot and edited the video, checked coats, took photographs, and sold raffle tickets. Volunteers at The Bridge mentor children, serve on committees, help recruit new volunteers, plan events and make them come true. Visit www.bridgeyouth.org or call Nancy at (847) 485-3083 to learn more about volunteer opportunities at The Bridge. It's where you belong.

The Bridge Youth and Family Services helps families stay together and be successful by providing parenting skills and education, counseling, youth advocacy (mentoring) and crisis intervention. Established in 1965, The Bridge is a comprehensive, community-based charitable organization serving youth through age 17 and their families in northwest suburban Cook County. For more information, visit www.bridgeyouth.org.

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