

ON THE TOWN

WITH BARBARA HENDEL

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012 | SECTION E, PAGE 6

Toledo has an appetite for Celebrity Wait Nights

With thoughts of feasts with family and friends over this past weekend brings to mind the many folks that gathered this fall to break bread together in the name of charity at ever-popular celebrity wait nights.

BIG Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio's third Celebrity Wait Night presented by Service Spring Corporation and GM Powertrain/UAW Local 14 was Nov. 8 at Premiere Catering Banquet facility. Emcee **Kristian Brown** of WTVG-TV, Channel 13 welcomed everyone.

Among the 16 waiters were Pastor **Kevin Bedford**, NAACP; **Vince Marinelli**, Stapleton Insurance; **Equilla Roach**, retired educator; **Marianna Baker**, dentist; **Kevin Webb**, Toledo Children's Hospital, and event chairman **Ray Wood**, president, UAW Local 14.

About \$20,000 was raised thanks to the more than 150 attendees, the waiters, and sponsors.

CENTRAL City Ministry of Toledo's Celebrity Wait on Oct. 29 at Real Seafood netted \$30,000. Waiters included **Dan and Lynn Anderson**, Bishop **Leonard P. Blair**, **Bill and Cathy Carroll**, **John Hayward**, **Rev. Monte J. Hoyles**, and many others. The proceeds support scholarships at the Queen of Apostles and Rosary Cathedral campuses.

HEART and Soul: Caring for Our Community celebrity wait night was Oct. 22 at Zia's Italian. The \$5,000 raised benefits Heart and Soul and the Thomas M. Wernert Center in an effort to raise awareness about mental illness.

THE fourth annual Celebrity Wait Night hosted by the Victory Center's Medical Advisory Council Oct. 16 in the Toledo Zoo's Nairobi Pavilion netted about \$12,000 for the center. Dinner, a photo booth, games, and raffles were all part of the fun for the 250 guests. Board president **Michelle Keller** welcomed everyone.

Among the 27 waiters were Toledo Mayor **Michael Bell**, board members, medical professionals from ProMedica, University of Toledo Medical College, and Mercy, and area business and community leaders. Waiters were thanked with an embroidered logo towel, made by **Linda Blaesing**, a cancer survivor.

FAMILY Child and Abuse Prevention Center's 10th annual Guest Wait Night Sept. 25 at the Carranor Hunt and Polo Club netted more than \$16,000, according to event chairman **Barb Martin**. The 182 diners were at tables centered with blue painted pumpkins by **Abbey Pawlak** (the color

represents child abuse awareness). Waiters included **Ani Geha**, **Sandra Hylant**, **Jane Larsen**, **Cindy Pisano**, **Lucas County Sheriff James Telb**, **Larry and Luann Croy**, and **Carrie Serber**.

PRO Musica First Celebrity Server event Sept. 20 at Snook's Dream Cars raised \$15,399. The proceeds support student grants and awards at Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts. The 36 waiters, including Bowling Green Mayor **Richard Edwards** and Wood County Sheriff **Mark Wasylshyn**, sported aprons that were autographed by the 178 diners through out the night. A silent auction included an in-home concert by faculty staffers **Thomas Rosenkrantz** and **Conor Nelson**.

Event chairmen were **Sharon Hanna** and **Karol Spencer**, president, Pro Musica.

LITTLE Sisters of the Poor's third annual Celebrity Chefs Night Sept. 19 at the Pinnacle raised about \$50,000. The 15 chefs, all area ministers, including **Rev. Msgr. Michael Billian**, **Rev. Msgr. Marvin Berger**, **Rev. Robert Wilhelm**, and **Rev. Msgr. Dennis Metzger**, divided into four teams for some great food.

Emcee **Michael Scott**, advisory board chairman, kept the evening rolling for the 400 guests who perused the dining stations, silent auction, and mystery box sale and posed with their favorite chef for pictures.

LOURDES University's Celebrity Wait Night at Real Seafood on Sept. 11 with more than 300 diners to support the student scholarship fund, raised about \$20,000. **Janet Robinson**, interim president of Lourdes, and **Mary Arquette**, vice president, welcomed guests. Among the waiters were **Bob LaClair**, **Ernest** and **Carolina Enrique**, **Dick LaValley, Jr.**, **Ann** and **John Meier**, **Bob Arthur**, **Raquel Bravo**, and **Dolly and Dick Flasc**.

EARLIER in the season of celebrity wait nights, the Auxiliary to the Ability Center hosted a waiter night at Rosie's Italian Grille and netted more than \$5,000. Among the waiters dressed in black and white with fun hats were **Claire Browning**, auxiliary president; **Ted Bowman**, the center's board chairman and his wife **Beth**, Toledo Symphony League president; **Pat Nowak** of the Sylvania Chamber of Commerce; **Paula Dionysiou** of Rudy's Hot Dog, and **Carty Finkbeiner**, former Toledo mayor.

BETHANY House Celeb Wait night at La Scola Italian Grille with 250 diners netted just more than \$17,000. Among the waiters were **Art Jones**, **Charla Ulrich**, **Mary Jo Jaggers**, **Paul Sullivan**, **Jeni Belt**, **Kathy Rotte**, and **Angela Crosby**. Hand-made book markers made by the children at Bethany house were thank-you gifts to guests.

Now let the holiday parties begin!



BRIAN DOLSEY carries a tray of salads to serve to diners at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio's Celebrity Wait Night.



Big Sister **DENISE SPRAGUE** dines with Little Sister **ZOURIANA**.



Celebrity waiter **JOHN HAYWARD**, left, chats with guests **MARY** and **DAN HARTNETT** at the Central City Ministries of Toledo's Celebrity Wait Night at Real Seafood.



Celebrity waiters **STEVE REAMEY**, **JANET WASIELEWSKI**, and **ANGIE DIXON** pose for a photo with **Spike and Elvis AKA MIKE WILLEMANN** at the Heart and Soul wait event.



SALLY BINARD, **TONY RASCZYK**, and **DEBBIE DRYER-MCCLURE** show their support to raise awareness for the mentally ill at the Heart and Soul wait night.



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON
Lauren and Bradley Sachs are serving wine at the Victory Center Celeb Wait Night at the Toledo Zoo.



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON
Celebrity waiters **Shannon and Bill Sanford** are dressed for the venue at Victory Center's Wait Night.



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Guest waiters **BARB MARTIN** and **ANI GEHA** are working hard at the Family and Child and Abuse Prevention Center's 10th annual Guest Wait Night.



JEFFREY SHOWELL and **VANESSA CHAPMAN** play around at the Pro Musica First Celebrity Server event.



Bowling Green mayor **DICK EDWARD** tied on an apron in support of Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts.



The Ability Center Auxiliary president **CLAIRE BROWNING** leads the dessert parade at the celebrity wait night.



From left, the Rev. **BOOM MARTINEZ**, Father **ERIC SCHILD**, and Monsignor **MARV BORGER** prepare food at Celeb Chefs Night at the Pinnacle to benefit Little Sisters of the Poor.



THE BLADE/LORI KING
Retired Rev. **PHIL-IP FELTMAN** shows his cooking skills as he flips carrots in a pan.



JANET ROBINSON, **RICHARD LA-VALLEY**, and **MARY ARQUETTE** are pleased with the success at Lourdes University Celebrity Wait Night.



ROBERT LACLAIR chats with guests as he serves meals.