

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AUXILIARY GALA RAISES MORE THAN \$85,000 TO HELP  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**NORFOLK, Va. (May 16, 2016)** — Children and young adults with disabilities who live at St. Mary's Home will enjoy more field trips and benefit from much-needed medical equipment with the success of a gala that raised more than \$85,000 for the nonprofit.

After 10 years of events in Virginia Beach, the Auxiliary Board of St. Mary's Home held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Gala and Auction on April 16 at a new location: The Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center on Norfolk's downtown waterfront. Special guests included Lynn, who lives at St. Mary's Home, as well as several current and former St. Mary's families.

"The Gala is a time to celebrate the residents of St. Mary's Home and our Albergo House for adults, as well as the wonderful environment that our community partners, sponsors, families, friends and staff help provide for them," Auxiliary President Mollie Pavlik said.

WVEC-TV weather forecaster Craig Moeller served as master of ceremonies as nearly 300 people had the opportunity to bid during silent and live auctions on items including jewelry, sports memorabilia, artwork, a trip to New York City and a stay in a centuries-old home in Provence, France. A special live auction just to fund field trips for the children of and young adults of St. Mary's raised \$16,000 from generous bidders.

For the sixth year in a row, the Gala's Presenting Diamond Sponsor, Checkered Flag Auto Group, donated a car for the Auxiliary to raffle off at the end of the evening. The

raffle raised about \$20,000, with the 2016 silver Toyota Corolla going to Eugene Adams, 91, of Virginia Beach.

Additional Gala sponsors included:

- Sapphire Sponsor -- PRA Group
- Emerald Sponsor -- SAIC
- Silent Auction Sponsors -- Kaufman & Canoles, P.C., Monarch Bank and Kerneos, Inc.
- Reception Sponsor -- PF&A Design
- Friends of St. Mary's -- Hook Law Center, Mercer, Roof Engineering Corporation, TowneBank and Thompson, Siegel and Walmsley, LLC

The Norfolk Strolling Silver Strings provided musical entertainment for the evening. Volunteers from Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach handled registration, while members of the Key Club of Frank W. Cox High School volunteered as auction assistants.

**About St. Mary's Home:** St. Mary's Home in Norfolk provides around-the-clock, specialized residential care for 88 children and 12 adults from throughout Virginia who have multiple, severe disabilities. With the opening of The Albergo House at St. Mary's in 2013 to provide care for adults 22 and over, St. Mary's Home has shortened its name from St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children.

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*With photos:*



*Nancy Wilcox, left, president of the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Home and a longtime member of St. Mary's Auxiliary Board, with Mollie Pavlik, president of the Auxiliary Board. Wilcox presented Pavlik with flowers and a painting created by Koko, who lives at St. Mary's, to thank her for leading the event. (photo courtesy Hampton Roads Photography)*



*Members of Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, who handled registration at the Gala, and other guests had fun posing in front of a new backdrop with St. Mary's new logo and tagline, "A good life." (photo courtesy Hampton Roads Photography)*



*Guests enjoyed bidding on a variety of prizes during an exciting live auction that was a highlight of the Auxiliary Board of St. Mary's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Gala and Auction on April 16 at The Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center on Norfolk's downtown waterfront. (photo courtesy Hampton Roads Photography)*