

northwest

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are much the poorer for it. This struggle involves all of us together. While some progress has been made, the scourge of AIDS is very much with us. It is only by our involvement and commitment that it will be eradicated both here and around the world."

Other beneficiaries of the money raised by AIDS Walk Portland include Our House of Portland/Tod's Corner/Esther's Pantry, Brother to Brother, Quest Center, Partnership Project and the HIV Day Center.

Since its inception in 1986, CAP's AIDS Walk has raised more than \$2.8 million.

BRO Unmasks Gala Results

Basic Rights Oregon's 25th annual awards dinner and gala exceeded goals and expectations.

The "Masquerade" theme was carried out through candelabra centerpieces by Phil Sparks of PBS Design, a spectacular show produced by dinner committee co-chairmen David Sherwood and Steven Nash and the colorful costumes and mysterious masks worn by guests.

"[Nash and Sherwood] pulled together all of the talent, hand-sewed all of the costumes, and they do all of this with no desire for recognition," said Jeana Frazzini, BRO's development director, who oversaw the event. "They do it because it makes the event incredible and raises money for the cause."

Dwayne Witzel, aka Rose Empress XLVI Lotta Liquor, was also billed as the event's "wardrobe mistress."

Musical numbers were bookended by dashing hosts Jackie Thomas of Nike and Thomas Bruner of

the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross.

BRO exceeded its fund-raising goal by bringing in more than \$300,000 with the generous support of top donors Alex and Kevin Bailey-Gilliam, who pledged \$30,000; honored guest Terry Bean, who sponsored six tables at the event; Peter Rossing of Muse Art and Design and his partner, Brian Houle, who pledged \$25,000; and hundreds of other donations from audience members.

Many pro-equality public figures turned out for the event, including Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams; Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner; state Sen. Kate Brown, D-Portland; state Rep. Tina Kotek, D-North/Northeast Portland; and U.S. Senate candidate Steve Novick.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski was not in attendance, but he sponsored a table. House Speaker Jeff Merkley, D-Portland, also did not attend but was among the Justice Circle of top donors.

Bean was honored for his 30 years of contributions to the gay rights movement with a Fighting Spirit Award and was congratulated in a video by local and national dignitaries including former state Rep. Gail Shibley, D-Portland, former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Former Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch was in attendance to congratulate Bean in person.

Touching videos were created by Sean Minogue and Mick Geronimo of Director's Chair Studio and Scott Hossner of Allied Video Productions.

The 2008 BRO gala will be held on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11.



MARTY DAVIS

From left, Thomas Bruner, Jeana Frazzini and Jackie Thomas were the faces of Basic Rights Oregon's "Masquerade" gala.

SMYRC Refurnished


Volunteer crews gave a new home to an estimated \$75,000 in furniture, arcade games and supplies to the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center on Oct. 9. These and other items, unused for at least five years in the former McGinnis Mansion in Beaverton, were donated by Signature Hospice.

Items included an air hockey table, exercise equipment, a music system, sofas, supplies and enough furniture to entirely refurbish the 2,000-square-foot facility.

Signature Hospice, part of Avamere Health Systems, donated all the furniture. The Signature Hospice program, which is part of Avamere Health Systems, is based in Washington, Multnomah,

Marion and other counties. The facility broke ground Oct. 10 on a freestanding, state-of-the-art, in-patient medical facility for terminally ill patients.

The gently used furnishings will replace the torn, wobbly and stained furniture now at SMYRC, which serves up to 60 at-risk adolescents four days a week.

"In addition to decent furniture and equipment for these youth, the SMYRC program needs much so more from the community," said Trey Malicoat, president of Signature Hospice and a major donor and volunteer at SMYRC. He added that SMYRC operates on a shoestring "and is the only safe haven in a perfect storm." 

By JAYMEE R. CUTI and JULIE SABATIER

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