

TexasFest fundraiser surpasses goal by \$55K

SUBMITTED STORY

More than 900 guests recently helped to raise \$320,000 at TexasFest, the Irving Healthcare Foundation's annual fundraising event.

"This was the gala's 32nd year, and when I saw the \$320,000 total, it was fun to realize that we had raised the equivalent of \$10,000 for each year there has been a TexasFest," said TexasFest event chair Amanda O'Neal.

O'Neal led a committee of volunteers and worked closely with the foundation's staff to ensure this year's proceeds were among the top five in TexasFest history. With 900 guests in attendance, O'Neal helped to set the record for the most guests ever to attend the gala.

Funds raised by TexasFest each year help improve healthcare provided by non-profit agencies supported by Irving Healthcare Foundation, and benefit residents of Irving, Coppell and Grand Prairie.

"IHF provides an important service to the community through a concerted effort to raise funds for our greatest needs," said Tom Trotter, chairman of the IHF board. "We raise funds for local nonprofits such as Our Children's Health at Baylor and Irving Interfaith Clinic so that they can focus on providing quality care, while we focus on raising money."

"Providing quality care to the citizens of Irving is what TexasFest accomplishes," said O'Neal, who works as chief operating officer at Metropolitan Anesthesia. "Every patient who walks through one of our beneficiary's doors is impacted by the funds we've raised."

For 2011, Reagan Arrington was the sponsorship committee chairperson and Lisa Mazon was the auction item solicitation committee chairperson. These chairpersons and the volunteers they led are responsible for TexasFest surpassing its \$265,000 goal by \$55,000.

"We had tremendous sponsorship support for the event which helped us exceed our goal," O'Neal said. "For instance, Q Chevrolet was a new sponsor this year. They donated a 2011 Chevy Colorado for which we sold chance drawing tickets and raised \$18,000."

Cattle Barron level sponsors include Avante Rehabilitation and Ken Thompson



Photo submitted by JOHN DRAKE

Amanda O'Neal (center), with her husband, Brett Brummit (left), and country singer John Michael Montgomery, who performed at the event.

Auto Group. At the Chairman's Circle level, individual sponsors included Norma and Don Arnwine, Suzy Beeman, Patricia and Bob Buzard, Larry Clements, Angie and John Drake, Joy and Ralph Ellis, Michele and Robert Gooby, Joe McQuillan, Cindy and Rick Schamp, Flor Smith, Shirley and Burnell Stehman, and Susan and Tom Trotter. Corporate sponsors were Irving Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Texas Digestive Disease Consultants, Mazon Associates Inc., Surgical Group of North Texas, Dr. Brian White and Dr. Gene Bigham of Hospice Plus and VHA/Novation.

"Irving Healthcare Foundation has granted \$33 million since it opened its doors over three decades ago," said John Drake, president of the Irving Healthcare Foundation. "Nearly \$7 million of that total has been raised at the 32 TexasFests since 1980. Every TexasFest chairperson, volunteer and sponsor shares in this remarkable achievement."

Founded in 1977, Irving Healthcare Foundation's mission is to make people from Irving, Coppell and Grand Prairie healthier by awarding funds raised and by encouraging volunteer service to worthy nonprofit organizations that provide healthcare or medical services in Irving. Baylor Medical Center at Irving is IHF's primary beneficiary. Other recipients include the Irving Dental Center, Baylor Our Children's House at Irving, Irving's Childhood Obesity Task Force and the Irving Interfaith Clinic. For more information, visit healthyirving.org.

John Drake provided the information for this story.