

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ninth Annual Galaxy of STARS Gala Dinner Dance & Auction Scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2010



September 27, 2010: STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way will hold its 9th **Annual Galaxy of STARS Gala Dinner Dance and Auction** on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at Woodway Country Club in Darien, Connecticut. The theme of the evening is "Black & White" and the event benefits infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities in Mid-Fairfield County, as well as their families.

"The Ninth Annual Galaxy of STARS Gala Dinner Dance and Auction promises to be a memorable evening for the benefit of STAR. Last year's event raised over \$238,000 to benefit infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. At this black tie optional event, guests enjoy dinner, dancing, a live auction and silent auction," explained 2010 Gala co-chairs Meghan and Robert Cioffi, Nella and Joseph Viesta, and Mary Ferrara and John Masanotti.

Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director of STAR, said, "This gala celebrates the excitement which surrounds STAR and our mission--to create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. This is STAR's 58th year and we'll be opening our 18th shared living facility in the next few months. There are so many exciting programs and opportunities for us to serve the

entire community. The continued growth and success of STAR depends on our ability to meet those needs--and on the generosity of our many volunteers, members and supporters.”

The 2010 live auction features a South African photo safari, a private Washington D.C. capitol tour, a "Night at the Museum" at the American Museum of Natural History, a vacation in Tuscany and VIP seating to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The silent auction features a wide range of items including artwork and original pieces from Lawrence Russ (courtesy of Rockwell Art and Framing), Zwikker & Zacker Jewelers, Tiffany's of Westport, Wirth & Salander, Villeroy & Boch, Darien Sport Shop, Miggs Burroughs, Couleur Provence, Good Directions, Mohegan Sun, Bill & Bette's Oriental Furnishings, Arogya Spa, Equinox Darien and Connie B's Boutique, among others.

Gala Co-Chairpersons are Meghan and Robert Cioffi, Mary Ferrara and John Masanotti and Nella and Joseph Viesta. Committee members include Sandra Nielsen Baumann, Richard Batten and Mary McGee, Gwyn Blanton, Paul and Brenda Breitenbach, Miggs Burroughs, Denny and Sally D'Amato, John and Mary Lee Danaher, Joan Dionne, Hilary and Carol Donegan, Peter and Katherine Gogolak, Robert and Gail Gonya, Ken and Beth Harrington-Howes, Mickey and Candace Herbst, Robert and Doree Levy, John and Polly Lowman, Jack and Deborah McFadden, Jane Pelletier, Ed and Catherine Piorkowski, Joseph and Cathleen Piscitell, Frank and Suzanne Schlegel, David and Linda Shockley, Dan and Margaret Smith, Llew Smith, Jamie and Theresa Taylor and Todd and Julie Thompson.

Sponsors of the event include: David and Phyllis Komansky, Prospect Hill Foundation, Ted and Karen Walsh, Joan F. Dionne Foundation, McLaughlin Family Foundation, Sandy Hill Foundation, Bill and Ann S(c)heff(l)er of Westport, John and Mary Lee Danaher of Wilton, Kesten-Brown Insurance, Investment Capital Partners, Annie Konidaris of Norwalk, Janie and Jason Konidaris of New Canaan, Dan and Margaret Smith of Darien. Media sponsors include 95.9 The FOX and Cox Radio: 96.7 The COAST. Underwriting sponsors include Teddy's Limousines, Omnicare, Patriot National Bank and CWA AT&T Chapter. In-kind sponsors include Classic Graphics of Stamford, Michael Joseph's Catering of Darien, Miggs B. Design of Westport, PCI Group of Stamford and The Bishop Group of Stamford.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. We create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

Tickets for the gala are \$250 and \$2,250 for a table of ten. For additional information about the Ninth Annual Galaxy of STARS Gala Dinner Dance & Auction, please contact Michael Petell at (203) 846-9581 ext. 302 or mpetell@starinonline.com. You can also visit STAR's website at www.starinc-lightingtheway.org.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a member of ARC/CT & ARC/US and United Way.

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