

BESSIE'S HOPE GALA HONORS ARLENE JOHNSON

BY BOB SWEENEY
PUBLISHER

The Marriott ballroom was packed with friends of Arlene Mohler Johnson and supporters of the Bridge of Love Gala benefiting the beloved Bessie's Hope nonprofit organization.

The event chair Roslina Diecidue greeted guests with gala enthusiasm as patrons strolled through the many silent auction items before the gala dinner with master of ceremonies Ernie Bjorkman of 7news.

Guests were greeted to the event by Bessie's Hope elder participants Don Snook and Priscilla Taylor, and youth participants Jeremiah Brunsvold and Izzy Fallon.

The auction chairs were Kimberly Pope Myers, Nancy Rawls and décor chairs, Kindall Pope and Marilyn Vorman.

The evening's honoree receiving the coveted "Community Angel Award" was Arlene Mohler Johnson. She has supported countless nonprofit organizations over the past 40 years. Johnson holds a bachelor of music degree and taught school in Ohio and the Denver area before managing a medical practice for two more decades but ranks her role as a mother and grandmother at the top of this list of her accomplishments. She had many family members at the gala from multiple states that came to honor her.

A successful live auction was conducted by Shelly St. John who captivated the audience with her silent auction finesse.

The audience was treated to a heartwarming vocal rendition of a song written and performed by Linda Holloway, one of the founders of Bessie's Hope.

Bessie's Hope is the only organization in the country focused on enhancing the lives of nursing home residents by providing education, training and relationship-building volunteer programs for youth of all ages, families, individuals, businesses and organizations.

Research shows that 60 percent of nursing home residents receive no personal visitors. Through Bessie's Hope, the young and seniors connect and feel needed, valued and respected.

The evening continued into the late evening with dancing to the music of the Syndicate.

Board members of Bessie's Hope are LaFawn Biddle, David Geras, Susan Markley, Pat Robinson and Richard Stephenson.

More information can be found by email info@bessie-shope.org or visiting bessie-shope.org.



All roads led to Bessie's Hope Gala.



Honoree Arlene Mohler Johnson (right) with her nephew Dr. Robert and Lisa Lack and daughter Bertie.

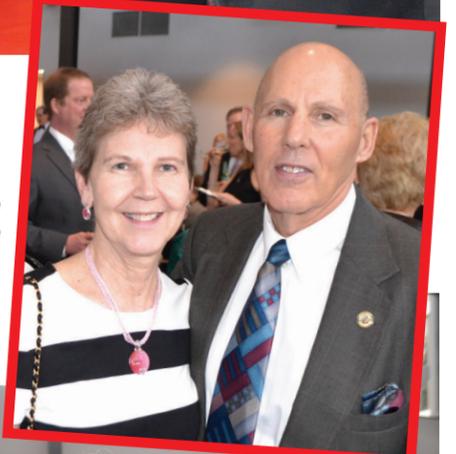


ABOVE: Adriane Rustin Fitzgibbons, Doug Tisdale, Rosalina Diecidue, Terri and Al Fisher.



Bessie's Hope leaders Linda Holloway and Sharon Brandrup with event chairperson Rosalina Diecidue (center).

RIGHT: David and Diane Oppenheim enjoy the gala silent auction.



Realtors Lyn Drake and son Cory

Charlie and Theresa Arbogast and Mary Jane Frederick represent St. Mary's Academy.