

SOUTH FLORIDA ALBUM

PARTIES / FUNDRAISERS / CORPORATE EVENTS

Heat raises \$1 million-plus for its charitable fund, beats Cavs

What a great week for the Miami Heat! The Heat beat the Cavaliers and raised more than \$1 million for charity! Can't help but love that! Our white hot players, coaches, fans and more turned out to witness the Miami Heat Charitable Fund raise the much needed funds at its benefit "Black Tie on Ocean Drive" presented by Hublot. This year's gala was hosted at The Betsy-South Beach and featured a performance by seven-time Grammy award winner Toni Braxton. Heat Managing General Partner Micky Arison, his wife Madeleine, Heat President Pat Riley, his wife Chris, the 2014-15 Miami Heat team and head coach Erik Spoelstra hit South Beach in style, literally partying on world-renowned Ocean Drive, which was closed to vehicular traffic. This was the first time the event was hosted in a semi-public venue, which gave Heat fans the opportunity to see their favorite Miami Heat players arrive via a red carpet entrance in front of the Betsy.

Black-tie clad revelers swooped in to party and raise awareness and monies for a great cause. Miami Heat television host and courtside reporter Jason Jackson conducted a spirited live auction, which included a limited-edition ClassicFusion Dwyane Wade Hublot timepiece; a VIP, all expenses paid trip to the 2016 NBA All-Star Weekend; and a collection of exclusive Miami Heat Experiences dubbed "My Favorite Things." Pat Riley spontaneously pledged a \$5,000 donation to the team's Home Strong military initiative and encouraged guests to follow suit. Those impromptu pledges alone raised \$75,000. Three additional Dwyane Wade Classic Fusion timepieces, which Hublot offered to engrave with "#HEAT Lifer," were also auctioned for \$30,000 apiece. The evening's black tie theme was inspired by the team's Black Tie uniform, which was unveiled earlier in the season. Black

teers responsible for this event through the years and couldn't be more grateful for all that the American Red Cross has been able to accomplish this year."

STEPH SEZ SCOOP



Billy Corben and Alfred Spellman at 2015 MDC's Miami International Film Festival Red Carpet of Dawg Fight.

Gigi Hadid, Cody Simpson, and Rachel Hilbert at Victoria's Secret PINK Nation Hosts The Ultimate Spring Break Bash.



Tom Swift, Matt Kuchar, Ryan Bibbo and Lyle Tick attend the Miami Heat game at the American Airlines Arena Grey Goose suite.



Shane Battier and Hassan Whiteside at Batioke 2015 at The Fillmore Miami Beach.



Miami Heat owners Micky and Madeleine Arison support the Miami Heat Charitable Fund's "Black Tie on Ocean Drive" event presented by Hublot gala on Ocean Drive.

Tie marries the concepts of athletics and basketball to elegance and fashion amid the iconic backdrop of South Beach.

R&B songstress Toni Braxton opened with "You're Making Me High" while co-captains Dwyane Wade and Udonis Haslem ushered her onto the stage, where she was joined by the entire team. Braxton also performed mega hits "Un-Break My Heart," "You Mean the World To Me," and "Breathe Again," as well as "Where Did We Go Wrong," from her recent Grammy award-winning album. Gabrielle Union and Paije Speights, Mario Chalmers' girlfriend, joined Braxton on stage to sing "Another Sad Love Song."

"For seven years, we have hosted this intimate gathering where our guests join our players, coaches and their families for a special experience," said Riley. "Bringing the event to Ocean Drive in South Beach resulted in a unique and very memorable evening. The best part is that we raised quite a bit of money for the Miami Heat Charitable Fund and its beneficiaries."

It was definitely a team effort with sponsors Moët Hennessy, Smith & Wollensky, Aventura Worldwide Transportation Services, the Betsy-South Beach, Metro Signs and more to ensure a championship evening!

'IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE'

Red, red and more red...yes, that symbolic



Marty Davis, Eugenio Sevilla-Sacasa, David Martin, Aleksander Alembert and Miguel Inda-Romero (front row), Robert Gordon, Roy Ripak, Fernando Perez Hickman, Jay Pelham, James Murphy, Jorge Villacampa and Alfredo Mesa (back row) were honored at the 12 Good Men Luncheon.

Red Cross held strong as more than 500 philanthropists, community leaders and glitterati celebrated at The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne for the sold-out 33rd Annual American Red Cross Ball presented by FPL. Influencers and South Florida's movers and shakers donned their bright red, dazzling hued gowns and tuxes galore to pay tribute to the necessary and lifesaving work of this remarkable organization and its benefactors. Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq., truly worked their magic as this year's 2015 Red Cross Ball chairs and named this year's theme: 'In Giving, We Receive.' The elegant and magnificent affair, produced by WOW Factor Marketing, featured a monochromatic red theme and boasted a lively cocktail reception and



Cesar Mendoza, Alex Villoch and gala chairs Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq. at the 33rd Annual American Red Cross Ball presented by FPL.

amazing silent auction courtesy of the Bacardi lounge.

Notables dined and danced the night away thanks to the support of presenting sponsor Florida Power and Light and the event's grand humanitarian sponsors Trish and Dan Bell

and Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq.

"FPL is proud of our long history of working side by side with the Red Cross in times of emergencies and natural disasters and of our tradition of helping to expand essential services in our community," said Irene White, external affairs director, Miami-Dade County. "At FPL, we are working with communities we serve to making Florida an event better place to raise a family and do business."

Other humanitarian sponsors AT&T Florida, Bacardi USA, Baptist Health South Florida, Bunny Bastian, The Batchelor Foundation, Betty Brody, Teresa Buoniconti and Chris Pedersen, Ana and Tony Figueroa-Cisneros, Swanee and Paul DiMare, Teresita and Michael Haskett, Meg Wright/ The Garner Foundation, Betty Lopez-Castro, Miami Marlins, Northern Trust, Mayi De La Vega/ One Sotheby's Realty, Ryder System, Robin and Susan Shelley, Teco, Christy and David Martin/ Terra Group, U.S. Trust, and Rita and Gary Wilder/ The Wilder Foundation were also recognized for their support.

"Chairing the Ball Committee this year has been an enriching and fulfilling process," Marile Lopez stated. "We are proud to join the long list of volun-

teers responsible for this event through the years and couldn't be more grateful for all that the American Red Cross has been able to accomplish this year."

12 GOOD MEN

Yes, 12 Good Men! The hard working committee of this incredible luncheon search each year for exactly that, 12 Good Men to recognize for their efforts in our community. The 22nd Annual 12 Good Men Luncheon benefiting the Ronald McDonald House was held at Jungle Island. Calvin Hughes, Emmy Award-winning newscaster with the WPLG Local 10 news team and 2014 honoree, kept the audience in great spirits with his witty commentary as the event's master of ceremonies. Linda Levy Goldberg and Sonia Gibson co-chaired the event and helped honor the 12 awardees: Marty Davis, Eugenio Sevilla-Sacasa, David Martin, Aleksander Alembert, Miguel Inda-Romero, Robert Gordon, Roy Ripak, Fernando Perez Hickman, Jay Pelham, James Murphy, Jorge Villacampa and Alfredo Mesa. Past honorees walked the runway and warmed up the crowd for the presentation of the 2015 honorees. Judge Bronwyn Miller, Irene Korge, Trish Bell, Christy Martin and Jeannie Hernandez led the crowd in cheering the men on as their names were called. Since the inception of the 12 Good Men Luncheon, more than \$1 million has been raised to support the "House that Love Built." The Ronald McDonald House provides a safe and comfortable place to stay for the families of seriously ill children who are receiving treatments at nearby hospitals.

STEPH SEZ: If you want your social item in my column, please email me at stephsez@hotmail.com.