

**For Immediate Release
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7th Annual Fenton Mayor's Ball Raises Funds for Three Charities

Fenton Community business leaders came together again this year for "A Night On the Town" at the **Annual Fenton Mayor's Charity Ball, February 23**. The event, **put on by the Fenton Community Charitable Association (FCCA) is in its 7th year**. Its purpose is to demonstrate that Fenton, its business community and residents compose a city that cares.

And, that caring comes in very tangible dollars and cents. **Over the past 7 years, the FCCA has raised over \$130,000 to help a variety of charities.**

This year, **three charities that serve children were chosen to receive the proceeds from the event---Angels Arms, Sunnyhill and Our Little Haven.**

Angels' Arms provides homes for foster parents, to help them keep sibling groups together. The idea is to assist children who are already in difficult circumstances to have the comfort of keeping their brothers and sisters near. Since its inception in 2000 Angels' Arms has helped over 100 children, including 22 sibling groups. They now have four homes in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Sunnyhill is an agency that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities. The organization provides residential services that allow their clients to live as independently as possible. Sunnyhill also oversees the operation of Sunnyhill Adventures, a recreational facility in Jefferson County that serves the St. Louis metropolitan region by providing summer programs for adults with developmental disabilities and children of all abilities.

Our Little Haven provides a variety of services for children who have been abused, neglected or have suffered some other traumatic event. The organization provides residential treatment as well as outpatient psychological services, a therapeutic preschool—Our Little Academy, as well as foster care case management.

This year the community came together to raise \$28,000 and \$7,000 will be distributed to each of the three charities. Other charities, like Kids in the Middle, St. Vincent De Paul, and Ride On St. Louis received smaller donations.

Mike Polizzi, president of the F.C.C.A., said the organization has been focusing on smaller local charities because the funds raised by the FCCA make a greater impact. They want to partner with the agencies to make a difference, and the organizations that benefit are so appreciative of their effort.

It does take time and effort to put the event on, but the Fenton business community really "kicks in," to make the event a success each year, Polizzi said.

"When it's all said and done, it almost seems like a miracle to see that money come in. It's very rewarding to see Chirco's donate a dinner for 25 people, the band [Trilogy]

donate a whole evening of entertainment,” he said. “The people that participate feel the power of the giving.”

Board members of the FCCA intend to expand their horizons in the coming year. There are plans to make a broader appeal to the growing business community of Fenton and encourage more representation on the board.

“All the businesses will be invited to participate. We want it truly to be the project of the whole Fenton community,” Polizzi said.

The date of the Fenton Mayor’s Charity Ball is scheduled for March 28th next year.

Cutlines:

FB2: Sean King, once more served as the auctioneer at the Fenton Mayor’s Ball. About \$28,000 was raised for local charities.

Teresa Woodard: Teresa Woodard of Fox 2 News was the special guest speaker.

Fenton Ball: Jeannie Braun, executive director of the Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce chats with former State Representative Jim Murphy.

Fenton Mayor Dennis Hancock says a few words about the effort of the Fenton Community Charitable Association and the event’s success.

FB5: The Silent Auction always has lots of great items.