

Your News

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

Dancing for food



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Dancers Lindsay Dromerhauser, Amanda Mire and Gina Marie Kane performed at the Dance for Food, coordinated by Stuart-based Artists for a Cause (A4AC) to raise meals, not money, for families in need during the holidays. Many of South Florida's finest contemporary dancers showcase their talents in front of an audience whose only admission fee is a bag of nonperishable goods. This November, A4AC provided Dance for Food events in Port St. Lucie, Stuart and Lake Worth. An evening of dance was performed by Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre, Dance Academy of Stuart, South Florida Dance Company and Downtown Dance Company. More than 1,000 meals were collected to help families in need throughout the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. See story, page 6.

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Local dancers' 'food-raiser' collects meals to help hungry families

BY EVELYN LESPINASSE

YourNews contributor

STUART — Each year, Artists for a Cause (A4AC), a Stuart-based nonprofit organization, coordinates its Dance for Food event with the goal of raising meals, not money, for families in need during the holidays. Dance for Food brings together many of South Florida's finest contemporary dancers to showcase their talents in front of an audience whose only admission fee is a bag of nonperishable goods.

"Our Dance for Food event is just one of the many ways we are able to fulfill our mission of creatively building better communities," said Terry Barber, founder and Executive Director of A4AC. "This performance serves three special purposes. It

provides a cultural experience for residents, serves as an educational and professional opportunity for local dancers, and gathers food for those in need," added Barber.

This November, A4AC provided three opportunities, in Port St. Lucie, Stuart and Lake Worth, for residents to enjoy an evening of dance performed by Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre, Dance Academy of Stuart, South Florida Dance Company and Downtown Dance Company.

Thanks to the generous support of attendees, initial calculations have shown that more than 1,000 meals were collected to help families in need throughout the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches. All meals collected were donated to non-profit organizations in the region

"These dance performances are a perfect example of art serving as a catalyst to help solve the problem of hunger."

Terry Barber, A4AC founder

that focus on hunger relief including the Treasure Coast Food Bank, House of Hope, C.R.O.S. Ministries and The Farmworker Coordinating Council.

Corporate sponsors also serve a critical role in underwriting the hard costs to produce the events. The support of The Patrick Stracuzzi Team at Re/Max of Stuart, Nisair Air Conditioning and Edward D. Reagan, P.A. as community partners is greatly appreciated.

"These dance performances are a perfect

example of art serving as a catalyst to help solve the problem of hunger. When different parts of our community all come together, amazing things happen," added Barber.

ABOUT ARTISTS FOR A CAUSE, INC.

Artists for a Cause is a Stuart-based, national, nonprofit organization that improves communities using art as a catalyst to achieve incredible results. Some programs help artists and charities get the most out of their collaboration,

while others produce direct results -- by feeding the poor, healing the sick, or solving other problems through unique artistic solutions. Current programs include Dance for Food, Therapeutic Music Day, A4AC Scholarships and Clubs, Artist Auction Packages and Benefit Concerts. All of the programs tie into the mission of "creatively building better communities."

Artists for a Cause provides support to many organizations including Boys and Girls Club of Martin County, Helping People Succeed, Treasure Coast Food Bank, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, House of Hope, Sailfish Point Foundation, Arc Broward, Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach and more, as well as hundreds of artists.