

## Artists For A Cause Second Annual Singing With The Stars Raises More Than \$30,000

### Event Paired Local Community Notables With Professional Singers To Compete And Raise Funds

The lights, along with the performers' smiles, were shining brightly at StarStruck Theatre on Feb. 20 as seven community notables took the stage with their professional partners to compete in the second annual *Singing with the Stars*. More than \$30,000 was raised through this signature fundraising event to benefit nonprofit Artists for a Cause.

In front of a sold out and raucous crowd, local shop owner Leslie Levy and her professional counterpart Charles Jones were the overall winners for their combination of funds raised and for receiving a perfect score of 30 from the judges for their performance of *That Ain't The Way I Heard It*.

"I am so thrilled to have the honor of winning *Singing with the Stars* this year," said Leslie Levy, "Charles was an amazing partner and mentor. I had such fun working with everyone in the talented cast and crew. I have watched my

children perform on countless stages over the years. Now I know why they love it so much! I had a ball."

The award for top fundraiser was presented to Shaun Kelly who sizzled on stage while she performed *Fever* with Charles Jones.

The winners had formidable but friendly competition from five other community stars, which were each paired with a professional partner. They included: Glenn Webber (attorney) with Shelley

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*Singing with the Stars* performer Leslie Levy was awarded best overall and best performance with duet partner Charles Jones. Shaun Kelly took home the prize for best fundraising. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit organization Artists for a Cause. Pictured: Hank Gonzalez, Avery Sommers, Rick Creech, Shaun Kelly, Charles Jones, Leslie Levy, Peter Jones



Broadway star Avery Sommers and community star Rick Creech performed "It Was a Very Good Year" to the audience of the sold-out *Singing with the Stars* event.



Shaun Kelly and Charles Jones sizzled onstage as their performed "Fever."



Peter Jones accompanied Rusty Meacham during their duet, "More Than a Memory."

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Keelor; Rick Creech (civil engineering and surveying consultant) with Avery Sommers; Rusty Meacham (Major League Baseball alumni) with Peter Jones; Hank Gonzalez (partner, Sailfish Realty of Florida) with Shelley Keelor and Martin County Commissioner Anne Scott with Peter Jones.

"We've heard nothing but rave reviews and couldn't be more pleased with our second annual *Singing with the Stars*. We are so appreciative of all the performers who participated



Hank Gonzalez and Shelley Keelor perfected their version of "Sue Me" on stage at the second annual *Singing with the Stars*.

in the event," said Terry Barber, founder and executive director of Artists for a Cause. "With the help of the venerable Jennifer Jones, emcee and director and the event planning of The Firefly Group, the show exceeded our expectations. Most importantly, the funds raised enable us to

continue to do what we do best - to use art as a catalyst to meet the critical needs of our community."

Event sponsors included: Signature sponsor Mr. Chain; Paul J. Feinsinger CPA; CenterState Bank; Crech Consulting; Family Private Care; LEADERSHIP Martin County Class 2014; McCarthy, Summers Law Group; NisAir;

Sailfish Realty of Florida; Fox Law Firm; Once Upon a Child; Hometown Cleaners & Tailors; Ralicki Wealth Management; Sailfish Realty - Hank Gonzalez; Zweben Law Group; Cray Buchanan; Ace Hardware; 3rd and Cali; Advanced Printing; Your Voice; StarStruck Academy and Theatre; and The Firefly Group. Also, many thanks to Women Supporting the Arts, the MAH Foundation, the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzzi Private Foundation, the William H. Donner Foundation and Elisabeth Lahli.

For more information about Artists for a Cause or to be considered for next year's *Singing with the Stars* visit [www.a4ac.org](http://www.a4ac.org), call (772) 419-8778 or e-mail: [info@a4ac.org](mailto:info@a4ac.org).

### About Artists For A Cause

*Artists for a Cause* is a Stuart-based, national, nonprofit organization that helps visual and performing artists to use their talents for community improvement. Some programs help artists and charities get the most out of their collaboration, while others produce results directly, by feeding the poor, healing the sick, or solving other problems through unique artistic solutions. Current programs include: Dance for Food, Therapeutic Arts, Donated Instrument Closet, Classical for Schools, AAAC Scholarships, AAAC



*Singing with the Stars* community stars opened the show and took the stage at StarStruck Theatre. Pictured: Leslie Levy, Glenn Webber, Shaun Kelly, Rusty Meacham, Rick Creech, Anne Scott, Hank Gonzalez

High School Clubs and Benefit Concerts - all of which improve communities through artistic endeavors. There are currently more than 1,000 visual and performing artists across the country who participate in the Artist for a Cause network. Registration is free for professional artists, volunteers. For more info visit [www.a4ac.org](http://www.a4ac.org), call (772) 419-8778 or e-mail: [info@a4ac.org](mailto:info@a4ac.org).



Community star Leslie Levy was paired with professional singer Charles Jones in the second annual *Singing with the Stars*. They won best performance and best overall with their rendition of "That Ain't The Way I Heard It."