



2nd Annual "Art Through the Eyes of a Child" raises over \$61,000!

The 2nd annual RE/MAX "Art Through the Eyes of a Child" art auction was held on Thursday, October 2nd at the Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club and raised more than \$61,000 dollars for the Children's Miracle Network. It was an enchanting fall evening spent with dear friends as well as new friends who attended the evening festivities to celebrate the art of "life, joy and healing" through children's art created by Shands Kids through the Arts In Medicine program at Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida.

For the second consecutive year, Storm Roberts of The

Over 200 guests attended the "Heroes of Our Hearts!" theme event which consisted of both a live and silent auction with all of the items having been created by pediatric patients, family members, and

the continued support of our dedicated sponsors. RE/Max Professionals, Inc. served as the title sponsor for the second consecutive year.

All of the money raised from the RE/MAX "Art Through the Eyes of a Child" Art Auction will stay locally at Shands Children's Hospital and will help fund many much-needed programs, like the Arts in Medicine program.

Many thanks to the following contributing sponsors: **HERO SPONSORS** - Countrywide Mortgage and New South Federal, **CHAMPION SPONSORS** - Millennium Bank and Law Office of N. Albert Bacharach, Jr., **HERO MEDIA SPONSORS** - 98.5 KTK and News / Talk 97.3 The Sky, WGFL-TV CBS 4, Cox Media, The Gainesville Sun, and WRUF AM / FM,

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Gary Thomas of RE/MAX Professionals talks on stage with Storm Roberts, Ilene Silverman-Budd and James Bates.

Storm Roberts Show on 98.5 KTK and James Bates of Gatorzone on Sunshine Network served as the celebrity auctioneers. They were joined on stage this year by Ilene Silverman-Budd of The Ilene Silverman Show on CBS4/WGFL. Children's Miracle Network "Champion" families joined our celebrity auctioneers on stage as they shared their past and present experiences at Shands Children's Hospital with RE/MAX Professionals, Shands HealthCare professionals, and other guests attending the event.

healthcare professionals at Shands Children's Hospital. This year featured eight spectacular items for the live auction portion of the evening. One particular live auction item in honor of former pediatric patient Laurie Foster- "Laurie's Perfect Present" was an emotional and poignant highlight of the evening.

It was truly amazing to witness the miracle that happened during the bidding of "Laurie's Perfect Present". Children's Miracle Network would like to express sincere gratitude to the donors of the Laurie Beth Foster "Laurie's Perfect Present" piece which holds dear to our hearts. RE/MAX Professionals contributed \$20,000 and the "DREAM TEAM" of University of Florida Pediatric Physicians donated collectively \$20,000. In the midst of all the excitement, an additional two thousand was added by the closing of the bid which brought in a final total of \$42,000! It was a truly unforgettable evening in which, we will hold dear to our hearts for years to come.

The success of the 2nd annual "Art Through the Eyes of a Child" art auction would never have been made possible without



James Bates and Calvin Lee pose in front of one piece up for bid.