



ECAD BENEFITS FROM FUNDRAISER HELD AT THE JERRAM WINERY

The Wine & Dine fundraising event held at the Jerram Winery in New Hartford recently was a resounding success for all concerned, according to Kathi Schapp who was one of the organizers on behalf of the sponsors, The Brooks, Todd & McNeil Community Charity Committee in conjunction with Northwest Community Bank

Schapp works at the Torrington based Brooks, Todd & McNeil insurance advisor firm and is a member of the community charity committee.

“We raised over \$5,000.00 for ECAD, our selected charity, and 75 people attended – about 25 more than we anticipated,” Schapp said. “We were pretty confident, but the turnout and the reception far exceeded our expectations. I would love to do the same thing next year.”

In addition to the wine and food, and the music of David Englebrecht, the event offered raffles and auction items. Schapp theorized that a novel approach to the purchase of raffle tickets had added greatly to the evening’s success. When the person bought a raffle ticket, they were able to put the ticket into the gift basket they would most like to have. The winning tickets were drawn from each basket.

Schapp said she was particularly pleased that so many local businesses in the Torrington/Winsted community donated goods and gift certificates.

Guests included Dale and Lu Picard, co-founders of ECAD, and several of their Service Dogs in Training. Extra special guests were Therapy Dog Gael and her human partners, Jennifer Hemmalin and Tracy Meltzer. Gael and her partners are members of the Memorial Health Care System staff in Hollywood FL, and were on their way home from Boston where Gael was named Therapy Dog of the Year by Planetree.

“We were thrilled that the Community Charity Committee chose us as the not for profit they wanted to honor this year,” said Dale Picard, ECAD’s executive director. “It is an honor and the funds raised will help us continue our mission of educating canines to assist people with disabilities.”

“The mission of ECAD is very inspiring to me on a personal level,” Schapp said. “I’ve been involved with training dogs for over 35 years. I also have several friends and family members who struggle with physical difficulties due to illness. When choosing a charity to be the recipient of our fall initiative, ECAD checked off a lot of boxes for me and the committee agreed that they would be a very worthwhile organization to support.”

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ECAD

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities



ECAD and its newly opened Canine Education and Wellness Center are located at 149 Newfield Road in Winsted/Torrington.