



DESTIN  
CHARITY WINE AUCTION  
FOUNDATION

2012 – 2013  
ANNUAL REPORT

# The Foundation's Mission

Benefiting Children in Need in Northwest Florida.

The Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation's mission is to connect wine enthusiasts and philanthropic-minded citizens for the purpose of raising money for children in need. Through our benefiting charities, the proceeds raised by the Foundation provide financial support and give hope to at-risk children, including those afflicted by health issues and abuse.

*"Families in need have so many more resources as a result of your hard work. Houses to live in, programs to attend, support for those traumatized by life events, a center in which to play, laugh, and learn... all because of a group of dedicated and generous people who didn't just talk the talk but decided to walk the walk."*

*—Dr. Julie McNabb, CEO Horizons of Okaloosa County*

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# The Foundation's Story



The Panhandle of Northwest Florida, also referred to as the Emerald Coast, is blessed with pristine white sand beaches and emerald-colored waters. It's also home to a world-class resort community where the residents sport a casual and relaxed attitude but are obsessed with great wine, great food, and giving back to the community. In late 2005, all of these strengths and passions were combined with the establishment of the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, whose sole purpose is to raise money for children in need through wine and culinary events.



In just eight short years, the Foundation has raised over \$6,000,000 to impact the lives of countless needy children along the Emerald Coast, hosted dozens of world-class wine and culinary celebrities, and has been named one of the 'Top Ten' charity wine auctions in the U.S. by *Wine Spectator Magazine*.



# Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

This past year was remarkably successful on many important levels. Our April 2013 auction weekend was by far the most successful in the history of our foundation, allowing us to increase our funds to our supported charities by nearly 13% over last year. Because of the support of so many, we provided fourteen charities even more resources to positively impact hundreds of children on the Emerald Coast.



In this report, you will not only see details of the financial performance of Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, you will see the impact that these funds have on each of the charities we benefit.

There are many methods we use to evaluate our performance, but clearly the measure that matters most is the impact our funding has on the lives of children who are counting on us.

Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation is supported by a wide range of businesses and individuals who graciously and generously give freely to make our mission possible. We are humbled by the contributions of wine makers who give of their time and product, of chefs who leave their own kitchens and restaurants to come here and feed us, of patron dinner hosts who open their homes to provide a world class wine and culinary experience for friends and strangers alike. We are grateful for the local businesses that provide sponsorships, services, or products so that we can operate as efficiently as possible and ask that you remember their support when in need of their services. Let us not forget those that raise their paddles in spirited bidding at the auction; their generosity inspires us all to do more.

On behalf of Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation, our charitable recipients, and the children who become empowered. Thank you for your generous support in 2013!

Sincerely,

Jane Solomon  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation

# Our Leadership

The results that the Foundation has achieved in the past several years are a direct reflection of the loyal, dedicated, and hardworking people in our community. The Foundation's Board of Directors, Trustees, and staff work tirelessly all year planning and hosting the most unique event found on the Emerald Coast. They have taken what they were passionate about- wine, food, and friends- and found a way to combine them with another passion: helping children in need.

## 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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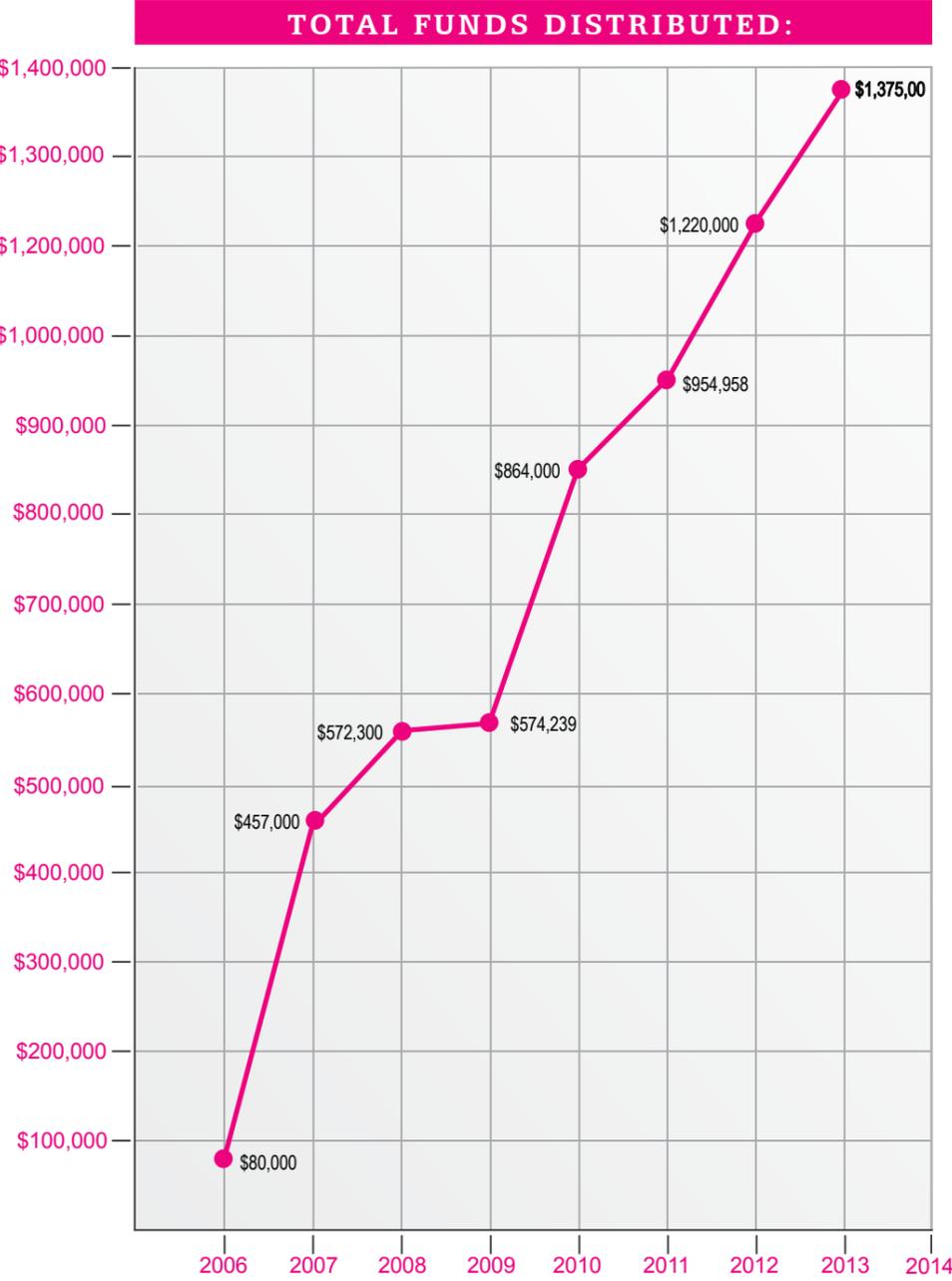


## DCWAF STAFF

John Russell, *President*  
Lauren Magli, *Director of Events*  
Karah Fridley-Young, *Operations Coordinator*

# Financials – Fiscal Year 2013

In 2013, the Foundation raised the most money ever, experiencing a 16 percent increase from the prior year. Most importantly, a record \$1,375,000 was distributed to the Foundation’s 14 beneficiary charities to help children in need throughout Northwest Florida.



# 2012–2013 Events in Review

## TASTE OF THE BEACH - WINE. DINE. DONATE.

Over 2,500 wine aficionados, gourmets, philanthropists, and friends gathered for a three day gala November 2-4, 2012. The series of events opened on Friday, November 2nd with an Al Fresco Reserve Tasting at Seaside’s Ruskin Place and Finz After-Dark event where guests enjoyed an unprecedented combination of food, wine, signature cocktails and show beverage mixology. The weekend of fun continued Saturday with the Seeing Red Wine Festival at Seaside and the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa hosted Taste of the Beach Charity Auction on the final day, rounding out a perfect series of events.



## TASTING OF CHAMPIONS

On Friday, February 1st, the Foundation entered 2013 with its Tasting of Champions event, which included a record crowd of over three hundred and took place at the Hilton Sandestin Golf, Beach, Resort & Spa. Showcasing over six hundred wines, which were also entered into the South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival, Best of Show white and red were announced and medals in over seventy categories were awarded.

# Destin Charity Wine Auction Weekend



## 8TH ANNUAL DESTIN CHARITY WINE AUCTION: FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT!

The annual Destin Charity Wine Auction and Reserve Tasting is the Foundation's largest fund-raising event of the year and exemplifies everything the Foundation represents. It is truly the wine and culinary event of the year along the Emerald Coast.

In 2013, the Foundation hosted twenty-two celebrity vintners and fourteen celebrity chefs from around the world and raised more money than ever before. This year the Foundation was fortunate to have the distinguished George Peterson of Spring Mountain Vineyard attend and serve as honorary vintner.



*"We were very pleased to be the 2013 Honorary Vintner, the entire event was seamlessly organized with a great opportunity to make new friends for the winery while generating funds for children of the Emerald Coast. Simply a great event!"*

*- George Peterson, Spring Mountain Vineyard*

# Celebrity Vintners

**Spring Mountain Vineyard**  
George Peterson, *Honorary Vintner*

**Betz Family Winery**  
Steve Griessel

**Caymus Vineyards**  
Chuck Wagner

**Château de Beaucastel**  
César Perrin

**DeLille Cellars**  
Greg Lill

**Domaine Champy**  
Dimitri Bazas

**Domaine Clos de la Chapelle**  
Mark O'Connell

**Duckhorn Portfolio**  
Zach Rasmuson

**Dunn Vineyards**  
Kristina Dunn Buchanan

**Hourglass**  
Jeff Smith

**Husic Vineyards**  
Frank & Julie Husic

**Jarvis Estate Winery**  
Ted Henry

**Joseph Phelps Vineyards**  
Bill Phelps

**Krutz Family Cellars**  
Patrick Krutz

**Merry Edwards Winery**  
Merry Edwards

**O Wines**  
Stacy Lill

**Paul Hobbs Winery**  
Jenifer Freebairn

**Pride Mountain Vineyards**  
Stuart Bryan

**Robert Craig Winery**  
Robert Craig

**Schweiger Vineyards & Winery**  
Andrew Schweiger

**Willamette Valley Vineyards**  
Tim Wilson

**V Madrone Cellars**  
Christopher & Pauline Tilley



# Celebrity Chefs

**Alex McPhail**  
Iron

**Jude Tuzin**  
Tony Chachere's Creole Foods

**Brendan Orr**  
Roof Top Café

**Carvel Grant Gould**  
Canoe

**Cindy Hutson**  
Ortanique on the Mile

**Clay Conley**  
Buccan

**David Cunningham**  
V Seagrove

**David Gwynn**  
Cypress Restaurant & Vertigo Burgers and Fries

**Dan Vargo**  
Seagar's Prime Steaks and Seafood

**Jamie McFadden**  
Cuisiniers Catered Cuisine and Events

**Louis Osteen**  
Louis's at Sanford's

**Luis Pous**  
The Dining Room at Little Palm Island

**Robert Gerstenecker**  
Park 75 at Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta

**Tim Creehan**  
Cuvee Bistro, Cuvee Catering & Grill Plus

**Scott Serpas**  
Serpas True Food

# Auction Weekend (continued) - "Future's So Bright"

On Friday, April 25th, over five hundred people attended twelve patron dinners and two restaurant dinners. The patron dinners were held in some of the Emerald Coast's most beautiful private homes and featured the pairing of one of the participating celebrity chefs with a celebrity vintner. Each home offered its own distinct atmosphere and flavor, such as a dining experience on the lawn at Ruskin Place in Seaside, FL or dining in a luxurious bay-front home. At each venue, chefs created five course menus that complemented library and reserve wines provided by a celebrity vintner.



The weekend continued Saturday, April 26th at Grand Boulevard Town Center with an al fresco walkabout and reserve wine tasting under a tent that was attended by all participating vintners, chefs, and patrons. All participating vintners' wines were poured and food was provided by fifteen of the area's top restaurants. Gary Serafin of Emerald Coast Catering dazzled guests with lite fare during the auction.

The night culminated in the Foundation's most successful live auction ever, raising over \$1.33 million. The top auction lot of the evening went for \$28,000—a trip for 8 to spend the day and evening aboard the world's largest privately owned yacht, The World. Private jet transportation to and from, limousine service, tours, and a private wine dinner hosted by Betz Family Winery Proprietors, Steve and Bridgit Griessel completed this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



# South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival



For 26 years, wine lovers have traveled to Northwest Florida the fourth weekend of April for a world class wine festival. With 2013 came South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival: new name, same date, same great tradition!

The inaugural South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival chose Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation to be the sole recipient of all net proceeds of the event. A check for \$30,000 was presented to the Foundation on behalf of the festival's founding partners on July 30th.

The festival was held April 25th-28th at Grand Boulevard and featured more than 800 wines, poured by dozens of noted national and international wine celebrities including Peter Mondavi, Jr. The 'Savor South Walton' culinary pavillion showcased local chefs as well as celebrity chefs including Norman Van Aken, a James Beard award winner. More than 3,200 wine enthusiasts

attended the festival which provided entertainment by a who's who of Nashville songwriters. They performed the hit songs they wrote for the biggest stars in the country music business, including Rascal Flatts, Faith Hill, Vince Gill and many others.

"Our auction was an integral element of the wine festival and the value of the synergy of working with South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Festival cannot be overstated. We believe this partnership was a key reason our auction revenues were up over the previous year." -John Russell, DCWAF President



# Highlights

This year Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation achieved one of its longest standing benchmarks, DCWAF was recognized by *Wine Spectator Magazine* as one of the 'Top 10 Charity Wine Auctions of 2012' in the U.S.



## WINE AUCTIONS

### Top 10 Charity Wine Auctions of 2012

BY LIZZIE MUNRO

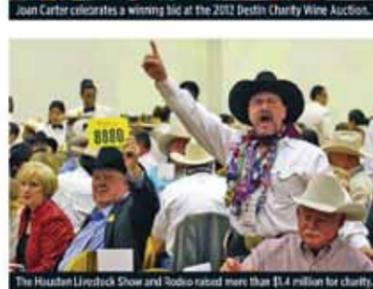
Though few charity wine auctions have set record highs since 2007, 2012 proved to be a promising year, with auction organizers quick to cite the steady growth and relative consistency of the market as reasons for encouragement. The combined total of the 10 highest-earning events by way of live auction bidding was \$26,311,920, an 12 percent over last year, and up 60 percent over the \$15,874,215 raised in 2009.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the 2012 list is that four of the highest-grossing auctions are new to the top 10: the Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest, the Lyric Opera of Chicago Wine Auction, the Harmony Gala for the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, and the Destin Charity Wine Auction. The Lyric Opera of Chicago Wine Auction, which has been held once every three years since 1988, and the Harmony Gala, which began in 1994, both experienced record-setting sales in 2012, rising \$962,300 and \$928,000, respectively, in live-auction bids.

The Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest, the youngest auction in the top 10, raised \$1,558,500 in live auction bids this year, and has donated a grand total of \$5.25 million in net proceeds since its inception in 2009. Likewise, the seventh annual Destin Charity Wine Auction raised \$894,620 in live bids—up from \$674,000 in 2011—and has contributed \$1,230,188 in net proceeds to children's charities in northwest Florida.

"In 2007 we donated \$457,000 [in total proceeds], and in 2012, it was \$1.22 million. To me that's just unbelievable growth," said John Russell, the event's president.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, the top-earning auction this year,



posted a relatively small gain in 2012 for a total of \$11,880,000. Once again, Naples garnered the two largest live-auction bids: A private concert for 100 people with LeAnn Rimes, accompanied by a wine dinner prepared by chef Tom Colicchio, sold for \$1.1 million, while a collection of eight rare bottles of Chateau Haut-Brion, plus six bottles each of the 2010 Haut-Brion Blanc and Haut-Brion Rouge, sold twice at \$550,000.

The second highest-crossing wine lot, a 9-liter bottle of Marchesi Antinori Guado al Tasso Bolgheri 2007, was the Grand Champion Wine this year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, selling for \$211,000.

"We had even greater enthusiasm this year," said executive director Joel Cowler. "We set records on the Champion and the Reserve Best of Show wines. That got us off to a great start, and it just did not let up until the last gavel fell."

But while some auctions saw notable increases in their live auction totals this year, others were met with challenges.

In 2012, many of the supporters of the V Foundation, including board member and Team USA basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, were unavailable, as they were participating in the summer Olympics in London.

"We were concerned because it was the first time we've felt in competition with an event," said executive director Jane Boswell. "But it just made us work a little harder and it turned out to be really successful."

Looking at early numbers for 2013, the Naples Winter Wine Festival brought in \$8.6 million in its live auction, several million dollars shy of the 2012 total. Auction organizers, however, are far from discouraged. According to festival chair Bob Edwards, the event, which began in 2001, is still growing and maturing.

But perhaps with age comes consistency in the world of charity wine auctions. 2012 marked the 20th anniversary for the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction. "At this point I'm very happy to have inherited a well-oiled machine," said Cate Candler Singerman, who has managed the event since 2011.

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#### TOP 10 U.S. CHARITY WINE AUCTIONS OF 2012

EVENT	BENEFICIARY	LOCATION	LIVE BIDS*
The Naples Winter Wine Festival	Local children's charities	Naples, Fla.	\$11,880,000
Auction Napa Valley	Health, children's education and affordable housing	St. Helena, Calif.	\$5,014,000
Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest	The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida	Miramar Lakes, Fla.	\$1,558,500
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	Local educational and agricultural programs	Houston	\$1,411,500
Rusty Staub	The Rusty Staub Foundation Emergency Food Program	New York	\$1,282,000
High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction	The High Museum of Art	Atlanta	\$1,287,000
V Foundation Wine Celebration	The Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research	Oakville, Calif.	\$1,124,000
Lyric Opera of Chicago Wine Auction	The Lyric Opera of Chicago	Chicago	\$962,300
Harmony Gala	St. Helena Hospital Foundation	St. Helena, Calif.	\$928,000
Destin Charity Wine Auction	Children's charities in northwest Florida	Destin, Fla.	\$894,620

\*Each year, Wine Spectator tracks the results of charity wine auctions in the United States. These auctions have multiple revenue streams, from ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and silent and live auctions. For the purpose of comparison, the auctions are here ranked by their self-reported live auction totals.

# 2013 Beneficiary Charities

On August 6, 2013, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation awarded proceeds to an unprecedented fourteen area charities. Throughout the year, the emphasis is on the execution of the Foundation's events, and this day was the culmination of all the board's hard work. The check presentation ceremony was hosted by Churchill Oaks and food was provided by Chef Tim Creehan of Cuvee Catering. The following were this year's recipients:

### PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

\$163,500 for Comprehensive Addiction Treatment and Family Programs

This donation will be used to provide six young adults with eighteen months of residential substance abuse treatment in a therapeutic community. The remaining dollars are put towards The Family Center programming for adults and children. The Family Center served 58 children on a daily basis this past year through the after school and summer programs while parents are working towards bettering their education.



### CHILDREN IN CRISIS

\$150,000 to Fund Housing for Abused, Neglected, and Abandoned Children

The Children's Neighborhood provides emergency shelter for young children, and the family foster homes help with the severe shortage of foster homes in our community. DCWAF's support maintains Sue Sue's Cottage which holds 8 children at a time and remains consistently at capacity. The children here benefit from the care of a married couple who love them as their own. The DCWAF Opportunity Home Transitional Living Program serves 30 youths per year, these children, have in many ways, failed out of foster care.

### EMERALD COAST AUTISM CENTER

\$150,000 to Fund Scholarships for Children on the Autism Spectrum

This award will ease the cost of tuition for families unable to afford the services needed. 55 children and their families were served this past year with many on the waiting list. ECAC's approach is two-fold: providing the highest caliber Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) based school for children with autism in our community and providing support for the families of these children.

### HORIZONS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

\$145,000 to Fund a Children's Center for those Living with Disabilities

The support from DCWAF will help fund the dire needs of renovation for the Children's Center. The Center provides child care to 84 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. It is an inclusive center where children who have disabilities can play, laugh, and learn side-by-side children who do not have disabilities. The Center also provides free or subsidized day care to children who are unable to attend day care full time due to physical limitations or finances.



## Beneficiary Charities (continued)

*“Children are great imitators, so give them something to imitate” -Anonymous*



### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF WALTON COUNTY

#### \$101,000 to Fund the Building of Two Homes for Families with Children

Funds given will support the construction of two Habitat for Humanity homes. Based on the current candidates on the existing waiting list, between 4 and 15 children will be directly benefitted. As of today, 29 children are being served with a safe and decent home to call their own.

### SHELTER HOUSE, INC.

#### \$85,000 to Fund Prevention and Treatment Services for Children Affected by Domestic Violence

This award will fund support groups, counseling, and advocacy for youths ages 6 months to 17 touched by domestic violence. These interventions will give them life skills including education and financial management tools to break the cycle of domestic violence in their families and relationships.

### CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEER HEALTH NETWORK, INC.

#### \$139,000 to Fund Uninsured and Underinsured Children Healthcare

This donation will fund Children's Volunteer Health Network's mission and through this gift, more than a thousand needy children will receive free, immediate medical, dental, vision, and mental health care services; including preventative treatments such as examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride treatments and sealants.

### EMERALD COAST CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

#### \$130,000 to Save and Heal Child Abuse Victims

This award will be used to support mental health therapy, case advocacy, and mental health advocacy programs. In 2012 DCWAF funded 2,078 mental health therapy sessions for the youth served. Through the mental health program, licensed therapists help children be children again. The Case Advocate Program tracks the abuse of a child. There are a variety of interventions used by therapists to include individual counseling, art therapy, play therapy, support groups, and sand tray therapy.

### SACRED HEART HOSPITAL ON THE EMERALD COAST

#### \$110,000 to Fund Healthcare to Needy Children

Money raised will go towards ending the episodic care children receive in the ER at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast by helping families navigate the health system and connect with local, state, and federal resources available for follow-up and routine health care. The program's dedicated social worker facilitates the continuity of care for underprivileged or abused children who present to the hospital, mainly through the ER.

*“A person's a person, no matter how small.” -Dr. Seuss*

## Beneficiary Charities (continued)



### YOUTH VILLAGE

#### \$71,000 to Fund Summer and After-School Learning Programs for At-Risk Children

Funds given will provide 40 low-income children with full 11-week scholarships to attend Youth Village's Summer Arts/Education Camp and for its 40-week after-school program, which includes academics, the performing arts, and service-learning opportunities. It will also provide daily nutritional meals and snacks to the children, along with field trips and costumes for each child to participate in theatre.

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE EMERALD COAST

#### \$50,500 to Fund Youth Development Programs

The funds from this grant will support the Club's Power Hour and Healthy Habits Programs. The Power Hour program provides the Club's youth with strategies, resources, and information to create an engaging homework and tutoring program. The Healthy Habits program is designed to incorporate healthy living and active learning in every part of the Club experience.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

#### \$40,000 to Fund 'Food Insecurity' Prevention for School Aged Children

This award will enable our children to focus on their development and education by removing the fear and insecurity that comes from not knowing if they will get enough to eat, and, in some cases, knowing that they will not. By providing these children with a simple backpack filled with healthy, easy-to-prepare food on these two days, we bridge the weekend gap.

### OPPORTUNITY INC.

#### \$30,000 to Fund Children at-risk to be Homeless

This support will maintain the Children Services Department at Opportunity Place, an emergency shelter for homeless families. In addition to shelter and nutritious food, children receive academic tutoring and enrichment, health assessments, recreation, school supplies, new cloths, and field trips

### FISHER HOUSE OF THE EMERALD COAST, INC.

#### \$10,000 to Fund Housing for Military Families During Medical Emergency

This award will sponsor a Guest Suite at the Fisher House to unite families during recovery and continue to support the Children's Fund, which provides for the children of families staying at the Fisher House. The House provides a safe haven for families while their hero is healing.



Children at Youth Village Summer Camp

# 2012–2013 Sponsors

## Become a Sponsor:

Contact Karah Young  
(850) 650-3732  
karah@dcwaf.org

The Foundation is extremely fortunate to welcome so many illustrious vintners and culinary masters to our area, and we thank them for lending their support and expertise to our endeavor. However, none of this would be possible without our gracious individual and corporate sponsors. We are so very appreciative for their support and commitment to ensuring that one weekend of festivities will truly create a lifetime's worth of benefits for children in need.



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JOE & DIANE RACKLEY

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THOMAS MARTIN FOUNDATION



REX LUMBER

# President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation continues to make a measurable difference in the lives of the children of our community, thanks to the countless dedicated people who have taken on our cause as their own.

Although there are many private and public groups that assist children in need, it seems the need continues to outpace the available support. That is where our organization steps in. We are not a national institution with a corporate office in some distant city. We are a local group of highly committed people and three passionate staff members who all know there are children out there counting on us. At every meeting we remind ourselves that our work is critical to so many. As we have grown in our ability to contribute, we recognize that we have built an expectation that we will be there to help tomorrow as well as today.

We are especially fortunate that the organizations we support are the first to volunteer to assist us with our fundraising events. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the incredible support we receive from our wine and culinary celebrities. Although they live and work far from our Emerald Coast, they consistently respond as if we were working in their neighborhoods instead of ours.

While the needs of the children always come first in our organization, we come together knowing there is something special in every bottle of wine. The growers, the vintners, the sellers, and the consumers share a bond—an appreciation of the art and science that comes together to produce a beautiful bottle of wine. All of the skill, hard work, and nature herself are multiplied when we share a favorite wine with friends.

It is our goal to share our love and knowledge of wine and food, to bring others into our world, and through these efforts return a piece of our good fortune to children who need so very much.

Thank you for your continued support of the children we serve and this remarkable organization.

Sincerely,



John Russell  
President  
Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation



Angela Vaughn

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Benefiting Children in Need

