

## 'Have Dreams' keeps dreams alive

Have Dreams, a local autism resource nonprofit, hosted its third annual Night of Dreams Gala May 6 at the JW Marriott in Chicago to raise funds for Have Dreams' renowned autism intervention services.

To date, the gala has raised nearly \$400,000. This year's honoree, David Hiller, President and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, felt the evening was momentous not only for Have Dreams but also for its impact on expanding autism awareness.

"We were proud to be a part of this very special evening. The money raised will help many individuals and families affected by autism, and help educate our communities about what we all need to do to help people with autism lead lives of fulfillment and dignity."

In addition to acknowledgement of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and David Hiller as the Night of Dreams 2011 Honoree, other event highlights included a moving presentation by 15-year-old Nick Vucovich of Palatine, a Have Dreams Social Buddy and brother to Joe, a Have Dreams participant. Celebrated charity benefit auctioneer David Goodman, of Auction Results, conducted a lively auction featuring such one-of-a-kind opportunities as being an honorary ball boy/girl at a Bulls game, a chance to throw out the first pitch at a Cubs game and a dream vacation to Tuscany, Italy.

Funds raised from the Night of Dreams will be used to support the organization's signature Social, Communication and Independent Living Skills Program (SCILS) and the numerous Have Dreams autism resource services provided to Chicago area participants, families and professionals.