

## ***Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago Woman's Board Raises \$1.3 million***

### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago Woman's Board Raises \$1.3 million at 65th Anniversary Celebration of Annual Summer Ball**

*550 Attend Signature Black-tie Gala Honoring Woman's Board Support for Chicago's Youth*



*David Goodman of Auction Results made money appear by magic and brought the auction to new fundraising heights in 2015.*

The Woman's Board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago raised \$1.3 million in support of local youth during its 65th Anniversary Summer Ball on May 31, 2014, at the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier.

Attended by 550 of Chicago's most influential and generous community leaders, the 2014 Summer Ball is one of the city's top fundraising events and Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago's signature black-tie gala. The Summer Ball is the Clubs' largest annual fundraiser, generating critical support for programs offered to more than 1,800 youth each day at 18 Boys & Girls Club locations throughout Chicago. Club programs allow boys and girls in some of the city's most economically challenged communities to develop into successful, caring, and responsible citizens.

Since its formation in 1949, the Woman's Board has raised more than \$75 million to support life-enhancing, after-school programs in a safe and nurturing environment, led by caring and devoted adult professionals.

This year's Summer Ball paid tribute to the Woman's Board leadership over six decades of service with nine event chairs, representing the Board's most distinguished members and past Woman's Board Presidents.

"The women who give their time and talents to Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago have made a remarkable difference in the lives of tens of thousands of members over the past 65 years," said James Keane, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago. "We are honored to celebrate their contributions and recognize their hard work through the years," Keane added.

Also during the 65th Anniversary Gala, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago acknowledged the special contribution early this year by former Woman's Board President Linda Gantz, who along with her husband Wilbur, established a \$2.5 million endowment, the largest ever single gift to the organization.

Auctioneer David Goodman emceed a live auction featuring luxury dinners and getaways, including trips to a restored Tuscan farmhouse villa, the U.S. Open Men's Finals at Arthur Ashe Stadium, a Pebble Beach golf trip and a wine tour in Napa Valley, California. Proceeds from the live and silent auctions totaled more than \$320,000.

"It is extremely fulfilling to witness the positive impact the Woman's Board has on the hundreds of youth who call their local Boys & Girls Club their second home," said Beth White, President of the Woman's Board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago. "Our Board is small, but mighty! We devote our

time and energy to the Clubs because we repeatedly see the difference we are making, not only among members and their families, but in the molding of future Chicago leaders serving generations to come.” White added.

Gala attendees also learned of a generous fundraising match announced during the evening. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago up to a total of \$50,000 through August 31, 2014. Up to \$1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

Attendees enjoyed a beautiful lakefront setting as well as interior decorations reminiscent of an outdoor garden party. Garden tents placed inside Navy Pier’s Grand Ballroom created the sense of an intimate gathering under a gazebo. Hanging white curtains that swayed with the lakefront breeze created the feel of a dreamy summer evening. Curtains were tied back at dinner to allow guests to view videos and performances on stage.

The Woman’s Board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago was formed in 1949 at the request of Brigadier General Robert E. Wood, CEO of Sears Roebuck and founder of Allstate Insurance, to provide community service to young Chicago boys, specifically those who lost a father in World War II.

**About the Woman’s Board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago**

The Woman’s Board President is Mrs. Bruce White (Beth) of Chicago. 2014 Summer Ball co-chairs consist of nine of the Woman’s Board’s most esteemed past Board presidents and Board members: Mrs. Norman R. Bobins (Virginia), Chicago; Mrs. Lester Crown (Renée), Winnetka; Mrs. Wilbur H. Gantz (Linda), Winnetka; Mrs. John W. Higgins (Marty), Chicago; Mrs. Karen Z. Gray, Chicago; Mrs. James R. O’Connor (Ellen), Chicago; Mrs. Jerry K. Pearlman (Barbara), Wilmette; Mrs. Neele E. Stearns, Jr. (Bonnie), Winnetka; and Mrs. John R. Walter (Carol), Chicago.