

Fair Tide auction raises \$23K for housing program

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KITTERY, Maine — Fair Tide's sixth annual benefit auction raised more than \$23,000 in support of its transitional housing program.

More than 140 people attended the recent event at Kittery Estates, which featured 128 auction items ranging from gift certificates to area restaurants to vacation getaways and original local art.

Noting more than \$5,000 alone was raised for its Fund-A-Need initiative, which helps cover basic living expenses for its transitional housing residents, Fair Tide's Executive Director Joe Galli said the night exceeded all his expectations.

"Honestly, we weren't sure what to expect because of the economy," he said. "As the auction got closer, though, more people stepped forth with donations and we started getting calls from people who wanted to attend. It was just incredible."

Citing support of its numerous corporate sponsors as crucial to the auction's success, Galli said the event would not have been possible without the assistance of Kittery Estates.

"They donated the food, their space, their time — I can't say enough about Kittery Estates and all the other sponsors who joined us this year," he said. "Their support will change lives forever."

Other major sponsors included Waddell & Reed financial advisers, Kennebunk Savings Bank, Comcast and Boyd Auctions. Kent Allyn and Ben Baldwin provided musical entertainment.

A nonprofit transitional housing program founded in 1998, Fair Tide's mission is to assist homeless individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient by offering targeted support services that include education, life-coaching and individual and group counseling in addition to short-term, affordable housing. Fair Tide operates a Thrift Store at 15 State Road, Kittery. For more information, visit www.fairtide.org or call (207) 439-6376.