

Fair Tide plans auction to benefit those in need

Items include exotic trips, local crafts

By Dave Choate

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November 12, 2009 2:00 AM KITTERY, Maine — A local nonprofit is gearing up for its biggest fund-raiser of the year, but the organization isn't the only one that stands to benefit.

Fair Tide, which was founded more than a decade ago to provide transitional housing and other services for those in need in the local community, has been putting on the auction for the last six years as its major fund-raiser. This year, executive director Joseph Galli said there has been an overwhelming amount of support. He said he'd be hard pressed to name a business near Fair Tide in Kittery that hasn't helped in some way, and those who come to bid on the prizes up for grabs will see the fruits of that labor.

The list of items up for auction is a far-ranging one, and includes a South African photo safari, a week in Cancun, suite seats at a Boston Bruins hockey game and a week at a York Beach condominium. Some of those have been donated by members of Fair Tide's board, Galli said.

Smaller items from local artists and restaurants will also be sold in a silent auction setting, according to Galli.

"Community support is key, and thankfully Fair Tide has been able to count on not only businesses and corporations, but private individuals, too," he said in a release. "Our operation pretty much defines the term 'grass-roots effort.'"

Galli said Fair Tide is aiming at matching the \$20,000 total raised in last year's auction, but said he will be pleased if it exceeds that total. He said the Kittery Estates retirement community has stepped up in a big way to support Fair Tide and host the event in 2009; its chefs even stepped in to cook for the event.

"Each year, it just gets better and better," Galli said in a press release. "We have great items."

Go & Do

"Full Sail" Fair Tide annual auction

When: 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20

Where: Kittery Estates, Kittery, Maine

Tickets: \$37.50 each; includes wine, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased at Fair Tide's Thrift Store or at Ocean Bank in Kittery, by visiting www.fairtide.org, or by calling (207) 439-6376.