



The Palm Beach Post

Recognizing people who care about their community



Stars to come out at annual Hope Ball

Evening benefit to raise money for programs
at Place of Hope, Villages of Hope. Page 2

Hope Ball to benefit foster children

Jan. 18 fundraiser also helps young adults with life-skills development

Place of Hope and Villages of Hope are planning the second Hope Ball, "Wish Upon A Star," which will be held on Jan. 18 at Admiral's Cove in Jupiter.

Funds raised will benefit the operating expenses of both Place of Hope and Villages of Hope, which serve foster children and their siblings in Palm Beach County. The gala event is being co-chaired by Joy Miltenberger, Kimberly Specce and Kathleen Speh, all longtime supporters of the foster-care organizations.

Place of Hope, one of the largest family-style child-welfare organizations in Florida, provides emergency and long-term

foster care, family outreach and intervention, transitional housing, support services, adoption, foster-care recruitment and support, and hope and healing opportunities for children and families who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect.

Villages of Hope provides support and life-skills development for emancipated (over age 18) foster youths and other homeless youths. It provides a supportive and proactive transitional environment.

Both organizations are in Palm Beach Gardens.

The Hope Ball's benefactors include Gordon and Cheri Martin, and Stuart, Stacy and

Maggie Par, in memory of Joann Serrine, as "Star of Peace" sponsors for \$50,000; Lawrence and Florence DeGeorge, of the DeGeorge Charitable Trust and the Albert E. and Birdie W. Einstein Fund, and Art and Angela Williams as "Star of Life" sponsors for \$25,000; the White Family Foundation as a "Star of Love" sponsor for \$15,000; and Speh as a "Star of Hope" sponsor for \$10,000.

"We couldn't be more thrilled with the level of support we have received from the community," Miltenberger said. "Our auction items are donated from area businesses and people who truly care about youth. The level of

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involvement and support has been overwhelming. We are extremely positive about what the evening will bring."

The event will begin with a reception and silent auction, followed by dinner, dancing to The Powerhouse Group and an opportunity to bless the children. Tickets cost \$500, and sponsorship opportunities range from \$1,500 to \$50,000.

For information about Place of Hope, Villages of Hope or the Hope Ball, call (561) 775-7195.