

Place of Hope collects toys with Venus Williams

Place of Hope and VStarr Interiors hosted a private reception for about 150 guests on Dec. 8 at Saks Fifth Avenue in the Gardens Mall and collected about 90 toys worth over \$3000 for Place of Hope's "Hands of Hope" Christmas Toy Drive. Special guest was Tennis Champion Venus Williams.

The reception for invited Place of Hope supporters took place on the second floor in the Contemporary Department of the Saks Fifth Avenue store in Palm Beach Gardens.

VStarr Interiors, a full service interior design firm Williams launched in 2003, presented a showcase of its designs. Guests brought quality, un-wrapped toys for the "Hands of Hope" Toy Drive, which will benefit the foster children of Place of Hope and other local children in the child welfare system this Holiday season.

"We are so delighted to partner with Place of Hope and help give back to the children of our community this Holiday season," said Meighan Coger of VStarr Interiors. "It was such a unique opportunity for Place of Hope supporters to come out and celebrate the spirit of the season."

Place of Hope and Villages of Hope will hold their Second Annual Hope Ball on Jan. 18 at Admiral's Cove in Jupiter. Funds raised at the event will help with operating expenses of both organizations. Individual tickets cost \$500 and sponsorship opportunities range from \$2,500 to \$100,000.

At Place of Hope's 2008 Spa, Golf Classic & Charity Auction Dinner, to be held April 28 through 29 at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa, supporters plan to raise funds to benefit its families of foster care children, while playing 18 holes on one of Jack Nicklaus' golf courses.

Place of Hope, located in Palm Beach Gardens, is a faith-based, state-licensed child welfare organization providing family-style emergency and long-term foster care; family outreach and intervention; transitional housing and support services; adoption and foster care



Julie Healey and Charles L. Bender, III



Brenda Nocera, left, Venus Williams, and Mickey Nocera



Cheri Martin, left, Venus Williams, and Gordon Martin

recruitment and support; hope and healing opportunities for children and families who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect throughout our region. Place of Hope will celebrate its seven year anniversary in May.

Villages of Hope, a northern Palm Beach County residential

community established in 2006, serves up to 12 emancipated foster youth and other homeless youth ages 18 to 25 in a supervised apartment setting. The organization provides assistance to youth as they develop life skills and resources to promote healthy independence. ■