



Robert and Tula Vassel with Kimberly and Bill Spece



Charles Bender, Renette Verheaghe and Ron Barsanti



John and Penny White

Hope Ball scores big in debut

Inaugural event raises \$150,000-plus for Villages of Hope.

For a first-timer on the Palm Beach social scene, the Villages of Hope fund-raiser did just fine, thank you.

The inaugural Hope Ball took place Jan. 12 at The Breakers and raised more than \$150,000 for Villages of Hope.

Kathy Cullifer and Kimberly Spece were chairwomen for the event, which began with a cocktail reception and silent auction.

From there, guests moved to the Circle Ballroom for dinner, dancing and a live auction.

Proceeds from the event will help

fund operating expenses at the Villages of Hope's new Palm Beach Gardens apartment complex.

The organization provides independent living support and essential life-skills development for emancipated foster youth and other homeless youth in need.

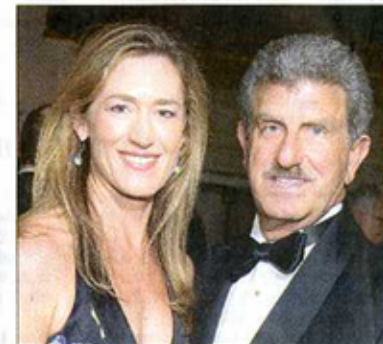
Story by Shannon Donnelly/Photos by Steve Saunders



Kathy Miller and Woodward Middleton



Stanley and Elinor Rosenthal



Carrie and Paul Hanna