



Daily Times Herald

CARROLL, IOWA

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Kuemper Ball marks 25th anniversary

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Mark Schwery helps draw names for door prizes at Sunday's kickoff meeting for the 25th annual Friends of Kuemper Ball. Schwery, his wife, Betty, and Chico and Bev Kanne were recognized for serving as first chaircouples of the Ball in 1985. Also pictured are (from left) K'Lynn and Mike Ludwig and Trish Baumhover. (Photo by Larry Devine)

The Friends of Kuemper Ball 25th anniversary this year will be "A Silver Knight Celebration."

That theme was unveiled Sunday night at the Greteman Center during the kickoff meeting for the annual fundraising campaign for Kuemper Catholic School System.

At the meeting, chairpeople of parish committees, special fundraising committees as well as committees that help put on the Ball received materials for the campaign. The Ball will be Saturday, May 2, at the Carrollton Centre.

This year's general chaircouples are Neil and Trish Baumhover, Curt and Kris Collison, Tom and Sherry Loughran and Mike and K'Lynn Ludwig.

Sherry Loughran says of the 25th anniversary, "It's quite a milestone for the Friends of Kuemper Ball and for the whole community, actually."

Over the last 24 years the Ball has generated \$4,653,228 in total donations and netted \$4,009,640 for an array of needs at Kuemper schools, such as technology, teachers' pay, religious textbooks, marketing and tuition assistance.

In a letter with the materials distributed Sunday night, Penny Miller, Kuemper High School principal and the school system's interim president, said, "For a quarter of a century, the 'friends' of Kuemper have made this Kuemper Ball one of the most successful fundraisers in the diocese. Our repeated success continues to amaze people every year. How does this happen? Well it takes endless hours of hard work by the numerous committees and the generous participation of people like you."

Noting the importance of the campaign to the schools, Miller says, "The Friends of Kuemper Ball is the major annual fundraiser for Kuemper Catholic School System. Its importance in helping to achieve the mission of the school system cannot be emphasized enough. Kuemper students continue to perform well academically when compared with students on the state and national levels. We offer students opportunities to grow socially and to learn the value of serving others. However, what separates us as a school system is the deep commitment to helping students grow spiritually in a faith-based, Christ-centered environment, where God is central in our daily lives. Making this



environment available requires additional financial commitment over and above what parish investments and tuition can provide. This is where the very successful Kuemper Ball comes into assistance."

The Ball is a major source of funds for tuition assistance, and that could be more important than ever this year, Miller said.

Applications for tuition assistance will be due April 1.

"We certainly are anticipating that our families will have more financial needs due to the stresses in the economy," Miller said Monday in an interview with The Daily Times Herald.

"Any additional money we can raise, we want to try to help with tuition as much as we can," she continued, "because obviously it's going to go up too, so it's kind of a vicious circle."

"We certainly want to continue to support the needs so kids can stay here. We don't want tuition to be a reason they have to make a choice to go somewhere else."

Miller noted that the diocese's Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation is the primary source in helping students.

"But that has pretty strict income guidelines," she said. "So we can't always help with that money. Therefore, it's important to have our local pool of money so that we can be more sensitive to individual situations."

"Situations pop up during the year when all of a sudden a family has a job cut or for some reason needs assistance, then we're able to handle that money ourselves."

She added, "There is always need, and we want to make sure that Catholic education can be a choice for everyone. If that's what they want, then we need to have the funds available to help."

The chaircouples said in letters sent last fall soliciting donations of grain from area farmers, "Eco-nomical, over \$5.3 million each and every year stays in the pockets of the taxpayer because of the Carroll area's Catholic schools. A combination of state tax dollars and local property taxes are relieved because of the Kuemper schools. ... The economic benefits of Kuemper make a local world of difference."

Loughran said of the outlook for this year's Ball, "We're very hopeful, and we're very optimistic. We understand it's a difficult time for a lot of people because of the global economy, but we're very hopeful and optimistic the support will be there to support the Kuemper Ball and the Kuemper School System in providing a very dedicated and high-quality faith-based education. We think the support is there."

She saluted the hard work and generosity of everyone that makes the Ball successful each year.

"We could not do it without everyone," she said.

Price of a dinner ticket to the Ball is \$60 for a couple and \$30 single. Donation levels range up to Golden Knight (\$10,000 and above).

In addition the Ball features both a general raffle (tickets are \$10 each) that's offering 22 prizes from 26 donors and a vehicle raffle (\$100 a chance) that offers a \$20,000 voucher toward a purchase from any of six participating dealerships. Prizes in the general and vehicle raffles total nearly \$35,000.

Following is information on the committees and the raffles:

General Chairs - Neil and Trish Baumhover, Curt and Kris Collison, Tom and Sherry Loughran, and Mike and K'Lynn Ludwig.

Vice Chairs - Mike and Deb McCarty, Jack and Vicki Rotert, Rich and Amy Wallace, and Steve and Kris Wiederin.

Special Gifts - Nick and Diane Badding, Matt and Peggy Greteman, Don and Mary Neary and Scott and Cathy

Potthoff.

Business - Glenn and Tami Badding, Brent and Diane Baumhover, Jim and Janet Feauto, Mark and Stacy Gehling, Dr. Mike and Pat Soppe, and Scott and Dr. Cathy Tigges.

Professional - Dave Bruner, Drs. Eric Jensen and Karen Friedlein-Jensen, and Jair and Julie Mayhall.

Publicity - Daryl and Kris Boeckman and John and Kathy Gradoville.

Valet Parking - Tim and Deb Gute, Randy and Lori Snyder, and Keith and Sharon Stickrod.

Decorations - Bernie and Lisa Pille and Tom and Mindie Simons.

Senior Citizen Meal - Mark and Lee Feilmeier, Matt and Peggy Greteman, Scott and Cathy Potthoff, and Scott and Dr. Cathy Tigges.

Diocesan Clergy - Father Joe Dillinger.

Kuemper Ball Coordinator - Sharon Olerich.

PARISH CHAIRS

Arcadia - Tammy Blum, Joel and Sheila Dentlinger, and Bev Vonnahme.

Auburn/Sac City - Larry and Laurie Mohr and Kent and Ann Pugh.

Breda - Travis and Sara Knobbe and Curt and Sam Pietig.

Dedham - Bill and Melissa Schultes, Denny and Barb Schultes, and Rick and Joan Wittrock.

Halbur - Mark and DeAnn Wittrock, Loren and Linda Bruch, and Dennis and Lori Williams.

Holy Spirit - Jeff and Barb Boldt, Alvie and Shari Irlbeck, Andy and Amy Ramaekers, Doug and Pam Rupiper, Mark and Tara Thomsen, John and Lisa Wagner, and Matt and Kelly Wendl.

Lidderdale - Steve and Jacqui Scharfenkamp and Craig and Kathy Schleisman.

Maple River - Dennis and Kathy Venner.

Mount Carmel - Russ and Marie Pudenz and Kenny and Diane Vonnahme.

Roselle - Kevin and Diane Rupiper and Kevin and Amy Schreck.

St. Lawrence - Mike and Donna Bachman, Dave and Kathleen Macke, David and Gina Nelson, Brad and Mary Lou Nichols, Greg and Judy Schreck, Mike and Nancy Schultes, and Denny and Terri Vetter.

Templeton - Bill and Karen Prebeck and Steve and Lisa Irlbeck.

Vail - Kenny and Laurie Drees and Gary and Mary Ann Schultes.

Willey - Tom and Therese Sibbel and Bob and Deb Hoffman.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 28-March 1 and March 7-8 - Parishioners make donations after Masses.

March 8 - Distribute all remaining envelopes to workers (parents of sophomore and freshman students).

March 23 - Deadline for workers to turn in their packets to parish chairs.

March 25 - Drop all red binders and all unused materials at the Kuemper High School cafeteria between 5 and 7 p.m.

May 1 - Decorating at Carrollton Centre.

May 2 - Friends of Kuemper Ball at Carroll Centre.

May 3 - Cleanup at Carrollton Centre at 10 a.m. (two couples per parish with students).

Regular Raffle - \$10 Per Chance

- \$5,000 Mega Room Makeover, donated in part by Prenger's Slumberland.
- Samsung 32-inch HD LCD TV, donated in part by Sound & Service.
- Riccar Radiance Vacuum, donated by Rutten's Vacuum Center, Denny and Joan Rutten.
- Mantle clock, donated by Eckerman Jewelry.
- Five silver coins displayed in Kuemper shield oak case commemorating Kuemper Ball silver anniversary, donated by 2008 chair-couples.
- One-year all-inclusive membership gold package, donated by Anytime Fitness.
- Okoboji Fun, two nights in Grand Master Whirlpool Suite at AmericInn of Okoboji, two passes to Arnolds Park and one-hour boat rental from Mau Marine on Lake Okoboji, donated by AmericInn of Okoboji.
- MSI Winds laptop computer, donated by Computer Concepts of Iowa Inc., Adam Schweers.
- \$500 tuition certificate for 2009-10 KCSS K-12 student, donated by B&B Construction, Neil and Trish Baumhover.
- \$500 Savings Bond, donated by Templeton Savings Bank.
- Processed Beef, one-quarter beef with processing at Arcadia Meats, donated by Curt and Kris Collison.
- \$500 Savings Bond, donated by Leroy & Sons Inc., Bruce and Mae Vonnahme.
- \$250 gas card and monthly lunch for two for one year at Mac's Corner Café, donated by Carroll Country Stores.
- Processed Beef, one-quarter beef with processing at Arcadia Meats, donated by Tom and Sherry Loughran.
- \$300 gift certificate donated by Home Treasures, Mickie Rupiper.
- 20-by-24-inch custom family portrait, donated by Sundermann Photographic Studio Photographic Studio and \$100 gift certificate donated by Kristi Schroeder, Premier Designs.
- \$250 Kuemper scrip, donated by Mike and K'Lynn Ludwig.
- King's Pointe Waterpark Resort, night stay and four water park passes, donated by King's Pointe Waterpark Resort, Storm Lake, and \$50 gas card donated by Reiling's 71 South, Daryl and Susie Reiling.
- \$150 gas card donated by Sparky's and four Iowa Energy basketball tickets donated by Iowa Energy, Nick Nurse.
- A Silver Celebration in Des Moines, \$200 gift certificate at Royal Mile and High Life Lounge, donated by Royal

Mile and High Life Lounge, and one-night stay at Quality Inn, donated by Quality Inn.

- \$250 Visa/MasterCard gift card, donated by Breda Savings Bank.

- Grocery giveaway, \$100 gift certificate donated by Fareway and \$50 gift certificate donated by Hy-Vee.

Winning tickets for the regular raffle will be drawn during the Ball. Winners don't need not be present.

In addition, tickets remain for the vehicle raffle. Cost is \$100 per chance. The winner will receive a \$20,000 voucher toward purchase of a vehicle at one of six dealerships: Adams Motors, Champion Ford, Carroll Cycle Center, Macke Motors (Lake City), Walsh Motors and Wittrock Motors.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the Ball. The winner doesn't have to be present.

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