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Philanthropy

Patti Payne: A \$50,000 puppy and a little boy each star in galas on the same night

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A fluffy puppy and a talented 8-year-old boy stole hearts at two recent charity events, held March 10 in Seattle less than one block away from each other.

At the Sheraton Seattle, the 29th annual JDRF Dream Gala, with its sultry “Dreams in the Casbah” theme, raised \$2.5 million for treatment, prevention and a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

At that event, a mini Australian Labradoodle named Dreamy went for \$50,000 to a proxy bidder in Washington, D.C., with a family of four children. One of those kids is an 11-year-old boy with T1D.



COURTESY DENIZ SATIR

Dreamy, a miniature Australian Labradoodle, warmed hearts and went for \$50,000 at the JDRF gala on March 10 at the Sheraton Seattle.

JDRF Seattle Guild and Northwest Chapter Executive Director **Deniz Satir** took personal charge of Dreamy and fell in love with her.

“It was difficult to say goodbye after having her at my home for two days,” she says.

On March 13, Satir flew with Dreamy on a Delta Air Lines flight to D.C. and said flight attendants and passengers alike fell in love with this pup.

“I was the most popular person in the airports and on the planes that day,” she said.

After personally delivering Dreamy to the anonymous buyer on the Tuesday night after the auction, Satir learned that the children woke up on Wednesday thrilled to find their surprise.

“That is going to be one loved dog,” she said.

Another item at JDRF that went for a huge amount of money was Virginia Mason’s private CenturyLink Field suite at a Seahawks game, with eight parking passes and food and drink for 24 people. It went for \$60,000 twice, a total of \$120,000 and the highest total of the night. **Tim Lee**, CEO of Lakeside Industries, bought one of the suite items; **Phil Bivens** bought the other.

Virginia Mason Chairman and CEO **Dr. Gary Kaplan** and his wife **Wendy Kaplan** co-chaired the event along with leaders **Greg** and **Stacy Lill** and **Dean** and **Stacy Jones**, who were thrilled with the outcome as was Satir.

“It was a shining example of the best of Seattle when it comes to community, connection and connectivity,” Satir said. “Corporate, social and philanthropic leaders came together with that next generation to change and save lives.”

Among others in the crowd were **Terry** and **Jay Ackley**; **Sherry** and **Larry Benaroya**; **Martin Blank**; **Jim** and **Jan Sinegal**; **Bill** and **Gail Weyerhaeuser**; **Dr. Carla Greenbaum**; **Tony Gonchar**; **Teresa Friedman**; **Harley** and **Lela Franco**; **Darlene** and **Lee Corkrum**; **Sharon** and **Marty Lott**; **Gordon** and **Gretchen Raine**; **Mike** and **Mary Lee**;

Barbara and Mike McKernan; Mike Flood; Seattle Sounders forward **Jordan Morris; Dr. Michael Morris** and **Leslie Morris; Stan and Michele Rosen; Tom and Cathy O’Keefe; Laurie and George Schuchart; Mary Knell** and more.

A stone’s throw away at the Westin Seattle, the nonprofit Make-A-Wish of Alaska and Washington held its Wish Night: Dare to Dream auction and gala, with **Jeff Stokes** as auctioneer. Some \$1.8 million was raised to help grant the wishes of children battling critical illnesses.

Co-chairs were Microsofties **Bonnie Ross** and **Sabina Norton**. Ross is a corporate vice president, and heads Microsoft’s video game sector 343 Industries; Norton is its senior director of retail strategy.

Some 800 people packed the Grand Ballroom, cheering mightily when it came to that perennial segment where Make-A-Wish children’s art is sold.

The hottest item of the night turned out to be a picture of a rocket ship which was created by Aiden, a little 8-year-old, so shy his hands were over his face at times.

And when a bidding war ensued over his drawing — and it went for \$34,000 to high-bidder Ashton Wolfe, co-founder of Monroe-based Wolfe Plumbing — the little boy whirled around in joy.

This was the highest amount ever paid for a live auction item at this event since its beginnings in 2003, according to Make-A-Wish’s **Zoe Kuhn**.

Wolfe had his eye on the artwork from the beginning.

“It spoke to me and my girlfriend,” he said. “We fell in love with it. I had a good year,” he said, recalling that years ago he started his business in his garage and the company had come a long way. “I wanted to go for it. Yes, I busted my budget, but I’d do it all over again.”

He was ultimately moved by the work of art, and by its young creator with the life threatening illness whose wish was just to go to a dude ranch and be a cowboy.

Wolfe said nothing of this magnitude had ever happened to him before.

“I couldn’t believe there was a standing ovation and total strangers from across the room were looking me in the eye and thanking me. Hugging me. I hope it inspires others who had a good year to go for it. This was not about the money,” Wolfe said. “This was about so much more than that.”

Said auctioneer Stokes, of this indelible memory moment, “This was pure love. I was proud to be a small part of it.”

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