

Gala | David Lawrence Center

Colorful, emotional odyssey benefits treatment programs

By Lynne Groth
Daily News Correspondent
239-263-4896

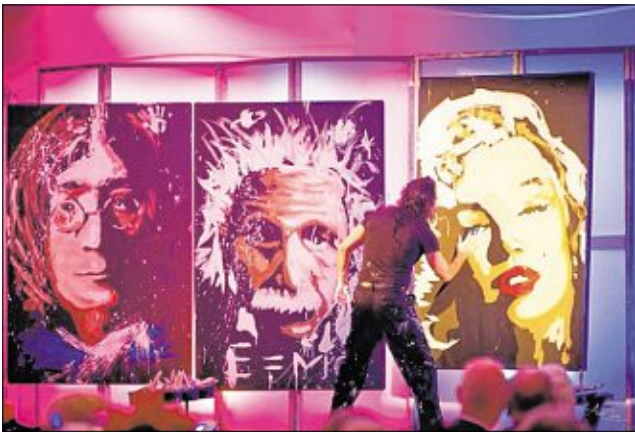
Set to heart-pounding live music, 300 guests watched as nationally known artist and entertainer Michael Israel splattered, smeared, twirled and leaped while he created five 6-foot canvases that were auctioned at Living Life in Color.

The David Lawrence Center and Foundation's gala held Jan. 23 at the Naples Botanical Garden turned its attention away from past themes involving faraway lands and instead focused on life here in paradise.

However, the underlying message was that, even with all of our vibrant beauty, many people spend their days wandering in a hazy fog — their vision clouded by anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder and addiction.

"The overall goal is to help men, women and children to wipe away the gray and to begin living life in color," co-chair Polly Keller said.

A warm, colorful wel-



Michael Israel painting.



Pat and Bill Barton

come by bright, flower-adorned dancers from Karemar Productions dazzled the guests.

“The overall goal is to help men, women and children to wipe away the gray and to begin living life in color.”

Co-chair Polly Keller

A live auction following dinner featured Israel's top-selling piece of the night — a portrait of John Lennon that sold for \$20,000.



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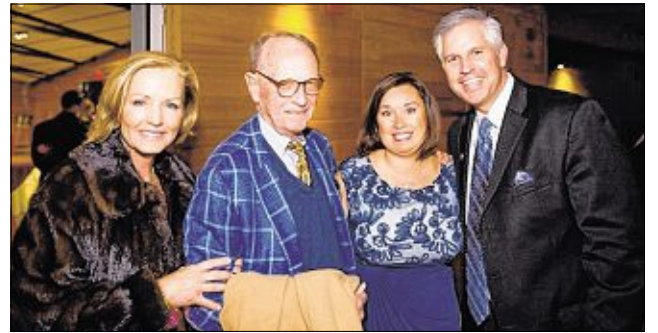
Robyn Griffin, from left, and Linda Kohlhepp with female dancers from Karemar Productions



Polly Keller, from left, Susan Stielow, Jason Stephens and Linda Malone

An estimated total of \$226,000 was raised, thanks to the efforts of co-chairs Keller with Kathy and William O'Neill and honorary co-chairs Bill and Pat Barton.

Proceeds will benefit scholarship funds for four treatment programs: holistic care, art therapy, inpatient and residential treatment, and psychiatric medical services.



Robin and Pat Stranahan with Renae and Scott Burgess



Sarah Hawes, from left, Allison Durian, Amanda Beights and Jennifer Trammel

Gala | Community Foundation of Collier County

Honoring game-changers, dreamers, humanitarians, doers

By Lynne Groth
Daily News Correspondent
239-263-4896

Even during times of an uncertain economy and a volatile stock market, the Community Foundation of Collier County has seen its endowment grow from \$300,000 to more than \$100 million in the past three decades.

In fact, this Naples nonprofit foundation has directed millions of dollars to local nonprofits — changing our community for the better — forever.

The community Jan. 20 was invited by the Trustees Emeriti Committee of the Community Foundation of Collier County and the Naples Daily News to celebrate four honorees at its Celebration of Philanthropy luncheon:

■ Lucille M. Drackett, the Robert C. Cosgrove Award

■ Naples Botanical Garden Inc., the Harvey Kapnick Award

■ Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, the Outstanding Corporate Philanthropy Award

■ Paradise Coast Artificial Reef Project, Excel-



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Jennifer Walker, from left, Dottie Gerrity and Lou Drackett

“Bob (Cosgrove) and his wife, Liz, were good friends of ours. All I can say is that I hope I have made him proud.”

Lucille M. Drackett, recipient of the Robert C. Cosgrove Award

lence in Civic Leadership Award

"This is our annual report to the community and a thank you to our donors," said Eileen Connolly-Kessler, president/CEO of the Foundation. "We are proud to oversee 510 funds, and

last year we distributed \$10.3 million to deserving local organizations."

Humbled by her award, Lou Drackett said she was present at the dinner more than 20 years ago when the Robert C. Cosgrove Award was named.

"Bob (Cosgrove) and his wife, Liz, were good friends of ours," Drackett said. "All I can say is that I hope I have made him proud."

Daily News Publisher Bill Barker presented the Excellence in Civic Lead-



Eileen Connolly-Kessler, from left, Myra Friedman, and Bev Cherry and Art Cherry



Suzie Lount, from left, Joanne Weiss and Linda Flewelling.

ership Award to Paradise Coast Artificial Reef Project.

"This project is a game

changer," Barker said, "not only for the ecology but for the economy of Collier County."



Bob Jones, from left, Amy Hale, Robert Errigo and Mary Vance Duggan



Linda Oberhaus, from left, Wilma Boyd, Mana Holtz and Olga Placeres.



Paul Ciccarelli, from left, Kim Ciccarelli Kantor, Jan Kantor and Mario Valle