

Pam Lewicki, left, and Janice Fonda try on some headband hats while shopping the Designer Boutique during the Mending Broken Hearts with Hope luncheon March 12.



Chico's President Cinnie Murray, left, Jett Thompson and Jessica Wells, Chico's VP of Social, shop the Designer Boutique before the Mending Broken Hearts with Hope Luncheon.

Mending Broken Hearts

■ Annual luncheon offers Shelter for Abused Women & Children some heartfelt help



Carrie Beynon, from left, Heather Dockweiler, Jackie Cronacher, Simone Lutgert, Teala Comer, Kim Confer and Kristin Cartwright shop in the Designer Boutique.

By Jean Amodia
Daily News correspondent

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children's signature fundraiser, Mending Broken Hearts with Hope luncheon March 12 at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort raised \$741,591 this year, drawing 720 benefactors at \$350 per ticket.

"This is the event's 15th year, and it has grown in scope and success. It is this sort of community support that has provided the wind beneath The Shelter's wings for more than 25 years," said Executive Director, Linda Oberhaus.

"We are humbled and inspired by the confidence the community has placed in us, and it is our resolve to continue to be faithful stewards of that trust."

The proceeds will benefit The Shelter's mission "to protect, prevent and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change."

About 720 altruistic supporters, dressed in frocks and suits with complementing or matching handbags and shoes representing virtually every major designer, made an eye-appealing entry into the pre-event area.

While sipping iced tea and cocktails, some guests perused more than 100 silent auction items from local eateries, businesses and spas, while others shopped a Designer Boutique, also open the day before the event that featured local and national vendors.

Among the top items up for bid were six-course dinner with wine pairings for 30 by executive chef John Welch at Avenue 5 (\$7500 value); an 18-karat white gold and diamond butterfly necklace from Yamron Jewelers (\$3000 value); and a luxury motor yacht Barton and Gray Mariners Club Cruise for up to three couples for two to three hours (\$3500 value).

A special drawing of a 24-month lease for a 2015 Mercedes E350 Sport Sedan (\$19,900 value) and a \$1,000 Saks gift card added drama to the event.

Just after noon, resort staff chimed guests into the massive reception tent, replete with glistening chandeliers.

Tables dressed in ivory linens were dotted with a fluff of purple tissue from gift bags placed atop white garden chairs. Provided by Chico's FAS Inc., which shared signature sponsorship with Arthrex Inc., each bag contained a necklace and a glittery heart pin.

In addition to table floral arrangements of colored hydrangeas and tulips, elevated wired, bird cage style centerpieces festooned with hanging ivy and feathered craft birds, created and underwritten by Shelter trustees Candace Raveis and Annette Pakula, were spectacular room focal points.

After opening remarks by NBC-2 News anchor Kellie Burns, special recognition was given to event chairwoman Gwyn Sanford, vice chairwomen Candace Raveis and Bev Haas and honorary chairwoman Dr. Mana P. Holtz.

Enjoyed by guests, a luncheon of white miso brushed salmon, sesame basmati rice cake, coconut broth, shiitake scallion and edamame was followed by a sweet finish — a milk chocolate tart with passion fruit and mango coulis.

Afterward, Oberhaus presented the Shelter address, followed by keynote speaker, Lynn Rosenthal, director of external affairs for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Washington, D.C., office and former White House adviser.

For more information, call The Shelter for Abused Women & Children at 239-775-3862 or visit www.naplesshelter.org



From left, JoAnn Remington, Peter and Erika Aron during the reception, March 12 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Tiburon.



Keynote Speaker Lynn Rosenthal with Shelter Trustee Dr. Barbara Jordan before the luncheon, March 12, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Tiburon. Jordan and her husband John were grand sponsors for the luncheon.