

2014 **BEST** OF THE **BEST** CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION



Naples Mayor John Sorey shows off plans for Baker Park.
photo Katherine Rosenberg Douglas

Jay and Patty Baker contribute to park

IT WAS A BIG GIFT, TO BE SURE, BUT NO BIG SURPRISE, EITHER, AS LOCAL philanthropists Jay and Patty Baker continued their long and storied tradition of giving to worthwhile Collier County causes with a \$2 million contribution that effectively renamed Gordon River Park in their honor.

Still, the 15-acre, newly-named Baker Park off Goodlette-Frank Road had plenty of other supporters as well. Because by the time everything was said and done, more than \$5 million had been raised at the March “Prelude to a Park” gala that drew more than 400 people to the \$350 per plate dinner served up by Carrabba’s Italian Grill.

“There are so many great naming opportunities; we’re thrilled to come out with top billing,” Patty Baker said at the time.

As part of the lead-up to the big event, suggested pricing for naming rights ranged from \$100 for a 4-inch-by-8-inch engraved brick paver to be installed in the park’s walkway to the \$2 million naming rights, with more than a dozen opportunities available at the \$50,000 to \$100,000 mark.

2014 **BEST** OF THE **BEST** FUNDRAISING CONCEPT

Old Bags Luncheon

THIS CLEVER PLAY ON WORDS TURNED INTO SOME REALLY SERIOUS fundraising to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children in Naples during a \$250 per person April lunch at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort.

Founded in Palm Beach in 1999, the Old Bags Luncheon featured a silent auction of new and previously-loved designer handbags and luxury items during a glamorous and fashion-minded event ably emceed by Amy Sedlacek of ABC-7.

With designer names on hand such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Judith Leiber and Brahmin, luncheon participants were definitely in good company as The Shelter marked its 25th year in existence.

The head-turning runway show by Carmen Marc Valvo wasn’t a bad addition, either.

“This was an inaugural event for The Shelter and it was very different from some of our past events,” said Executive Director Linda Oberhaus. “The atmosphere was upbeat and exciting and the venue allowed us to make new friends who hadn’t previously been connected with our organization.”



Old Bags luncheon attendees.