



FOUNDATION NEWS

SPRING 2011 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

2011 IMAGINE! CELEBRATION: ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT

On Friday, January 28, 415 people gathered at the Plaza Hotel Longmont for the 10th Annual Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction. The event was a resounding success, raising more than \$217,000 to support Imagine!'s mission of providing supports and services to some of Boulder and Broomfield counties' most vulnerable citizens.

The evening began with a silent auction featuring 221 items donated by generous local businesses and individuals. Following dinner and the end of bidding on silent auction items, the program for the evening began. Emcee, Foundation board member, and longtime friend of Imagine! George Karakehian once again was the glue that held the program together, moving from highlight to highlight with ease and with great humor.



George Karakehian (left), pictured with Carol Riggs and David Edwards, acted as emcee at the 2011 Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction, which raised more than \$217,000 for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Dawn Marie Candelaria-Bisgard was honored as Imagine!'s 2010 Consumer of the Year

And the highlights were many! The program started off with a bang by honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Imagine! Foundation, Imagine!'s fundraising arm and the organization responsible for putting on the annual celebration. In its 10 years of existence, the Foundation has raised more than \$4,000,000 to serve local individuals with developmental disabilities.

After honoring the Imagine! Foundation's success, George introduced the crowd (the largest ever to attend the event) to Dawn Marie Candelaria-Bisgard, Imagine!'s 2010 Consumer of the Year. Dawn's story is one of perseverance and hard work, as she struggled to overcome not only the barriers presented by her disability, but also barriers she placed upon herself through poor choices. In recent years she has really put forth a tremendous effort to turn her life around and become the outstanding young lady she is today. Now Dawn stands (*story continues on page 2*)

CELEBRATION DINNER RAISES \$217,000

(continued from page 1) as a role model for all of those served at Imagine!, all of those who work at Imagine!, and indeed, the community at large.

The presentation of the Consumer of the Year is always the emotional high point of the annual festivities, and this year proved no exception. A standing ovation greeted Dawn after she gave her heartfelt acceptance speech upon receiving her award.

Learn more about Dawn on page 5.

Once the program portion of the evening was completed, attendees took part in a spirited (and quite successful) live auction. Auctioneer Gary Corbett deftly enticed the crowd to bid higher and higher dollar amounts on 13 auction items including a trip to Greece, an elk hunt, a fly-fishing expedition, and an African photo safari.



Colene Van Winkle (left) and Paige Lawrence (right) served as Imagine! Celebration Co-Chairs. Paige's husband, Don Sullivan (center), created all of the displays for the Silent and Live Auctions



Foundation board member Walt Pounds and his wife Linda (left) and Foundation board member Lloyd Streit and his wife Julie (right) were generous sponsors of the event.

Corbett also expertly led the final event of the evening, a Special Appeal where funds were directed to Imagine!'s SmartHomes project.

Many thanks to the generous community members who came out in huge numbers to support Imagine!, including current and former members of Imagine!'s Board of

Directors, current and former members of the Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors, business leaders, consumers, family members, and so many others interested in supporting the work of Imagine!.

Special thanks to the 20 Imagine! staff members who volunteered their time during the event, to the Imagine! Celebration Committee for all of their efforts before and during the event, and to all of the generous event sponsors.

See all the Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction Sponsors on page 4.



CELEBRATION SUCCESS!

More than just a fundraiser, Imagine!'s Celebration Dinner and Auction is held to commemorate the organization's successes in the past year, as well as to honor some of its shining stars. Below are just a few of the many people who helped make the night so special.



*Bob Davis, Kathy Coyne, Julie Vlier,
Rich Tocher*



*Frank and Nancy Latino, Michelle and
Pat O'Brien*



*Ja Elliot, John and
Deea Frisbie*



Natalie Smutzler



*Sandy Hembd, Doug and Cindy Smith,
Jim Hembd*



Shari Tebo



Forrest and Carolyn Fleming



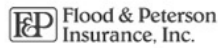
Josie and Rollie Heath



*Kevin Nelson, Susan White,
Mark Zentner*

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David Edwards

Jay & Kathy Montgomery
Walt & Linda Pounds
Shari Tebo

Bob & Judy Charles
Lloyd & Julie Streit

HALF TABLES



MEET IMAGINE!’S 2010 CONSUMER OF THE YEAR: DAWN MARIE CANDELARIA-BISGARD

A highlight of the recent Imagine! Celebration Dinner and Auction was the honoring of Dawn Marie Candelaria-Bisgard as Imagine!’s 2010 Consumer of the Year.

Dawn Marie Candelaria-Bisgard was born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which can cause cognitive delays affecting a person’s speech, social skill development, and impulse control. Dawn initially required many behavioral interventions and supports, but, with the help of her host home providers, she has recently made significant strides in her ability to function independently. She maintains her employment (recently adding a new job), has learned to use public transportation (RTD), budgets her money, manages her own medications, and has made several very smart and mature choices in her everyday life.

Her artistic side has blossomed as well. She recently had a self-portrait she painted in her art class through Imagine!’s CORE/Labor Source department put on display at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

Dawn is someone her peers look up to, and when she sees them having difficulty, she offers her friendship and life experience. An Imagine! staff person who hadn’t seen Dawn for several years took her out for lunch recently, and said, “I was AMAZED! She is an entirely different person!” Congratulations, Dawn, on making such positive life changes!



Imagine!’s 2010 Consumer of the Year Dawn Marie Candelaria-Bisgard poses with her self-portrait, which was later displayed at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.



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Foundation News is the newsletter of the Imagine! Foundation

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* Emeritus

THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.

