

A NIGHT OF SOUTHERN
Elegance
BENEFITTING FAYETTE CARES

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Greetings,

Thanks to you and other generous donors, last year A Night of Southern Elegance benefiting Fayette Cares raised significant and much-needed funding to help end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and create stability from financial crisis for more than 1,300 people.

This year COVID-19 has devastated many lives and more than ever spotlighted the importance of the essential services provided by Fayette Cares including emergency food, shelter, and safety from violence.

Unfortunately during a time when families need us most our fundraising events are being hit hardest. Events like our elegant dinner and auction A Night of Southern Elegance on Saturday, November 7, 2020 are critical to sustaining the important works of Fayette Cares.

We hope you'll take part in this special event and respectfully request a donation or sponsorship to continue the life changing work of Fayette Cares.

Please use the attached forms for confirming your 2020 donation or contact us at Donations@FayetteCares.org. Additional event information is available at FayetteCares.org/gala.

Fayette Cares is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization celebrating more than 30 years of award-winning service. To learn more about Fayette Cares, visit FayetteCares.org. For additional information please contact Pamela Rose or Marilyn Kain.

Thank you for your consideration and generous donation, which is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Porto

Fayette Cares Executive Director

P.O. Box 326
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Somerville, TN 38068
(901) 465-3802
www.FayetteCares.org



about us



FAYETTE
Cares

Empowering those in need with hope, independence and lasting solutions.

Fayette Cares has served Fayette County for 30 years. We have grown over the years from an agency providing food, clothing, housewares, rent and utility aid to an agency that also supports those in need of domestic violence intervention, homelessness prevention, and many other financial crisis needs.

Fayette Cares has served the following average number of clients each year (FY2011 - FY2014)

INDIVIDUALS 1,477 **ADULTS** 943 **CHILDREN** 534



RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS

Through our two residential programs we are able to provide stable housing, job and life-skills training and support groups to our clients in their journey towards self-sufficiency.

Our supportive housing program includes 4 housing units with 50% of clients staying over 6 months.

Our emergency shelter program increased from 1 to 3 units in 2014 with clients staying an average of 3 months.

Since 2012 80% of emergency shelter program residents had stable housing when they left Fayette Cares and 70% had jobs.

At capacity our residential program can house up to 7 families or 29 total people.

NON-RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS

Through our non-residential program we are able to provide financial crisis intervention as well as access to training and support groups.

Based on program qualification metrics, we provide a wide range of services for non-residential clients.



- Comprehensive Information & Referral Case Management
- Rent & Utility Payment Assistance
- Clothing, Furniture, Food
- Life Skills Classes
- School Clothing & Supplies
- Educational Assistance
- Gas & Motel Vouchers
- Mortgage Payment Assistance



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“ **He ripped my hair out from the roots ... he would spit in my face ... he did horrible things to me,**” says a Fayette Cares client and survivor of domestic violence. **“Fayette Cares gave me support ... they were my family.”** Without intervention, the cycle of violence and poverty would have continued. Because of Fayette Cares, Mom is now a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) supporting her four kids in a home of their own. This once traumatized family found what they needed to move from a dark, painful past into a bright, hopeful future.

- Fayette Cares Client

“ **I thank God for this place,**” shared Stephen as he hugged the staff on his last day in the shelter. When he came to Fayette Cares he had been homeless, wandering the streets searching for work. **Shortly after beginning in the program he found a job, purchased a vehicle, received insurance benefits and sorely needed medical care.** Stephen was deeply grateful to have a safe place to rebuild his life.

- Fayette Cares Client

“ Thank you for everything you’ve done for us. For shelter, clothes, food, and warmth and **thank you for giving us HOPE!**”

- Fayette Cares Client

“ **If it weren’t for Fayette Cares I’d still be living in my van.**”

- Fayette Cares Client



“ Jennifer is filled with pride because she has endured a rigorous course and will soon be graduating as a Certified Medical Assistant. **“Because of Fayette Cares, I get to walk across that stage!”**

Her demeanor changes in an instant, when she is asked about how she came to the Fayette Cares shelter. “It’s very painful ... I’m not going to let that hold me back,” she says tearfully. The road to a better life has been difficult. An abusive relationship had seriously eroded her self esteem and left her homeless. She thought she was out of options, until she came to Fayette Cares.

Jennifer found shelter, food, and safety, helping regain her footing. Once the basic needs were met, she could be more focused on the future. Working closely with staff and volunteers to set goals and access resources, she worked hard to build skills that would lead to lasting solutions, for herself and her children.

“Without Fayette Cares ... my graduation ... none of this would be happening...” Not only is she set to graduate near the top of her class, she has been offered a job and will soon be earning a living wage. **“I found hope!”** Jennifer is once again joyful and filled with gratitude. **“I have you guys to thank for giving me this opportunity.”**

- Fayette Cares Client

“ In sub-freezing temperatures volunteers helped a Fayette Cares client load up a bicycle and toys. The client comments that she is trembling. **“It’s not that I’m cold,” she says “I’m just so touched by what you’ve done for my family!”**

- Fayette Cares Client

“ It was really tough living in a tent ... one day it rained so hard our air mattress began to float.

- Fayette Cares Client

“ Coming home to fruits and veggies fills my heart so full!

- Fayette Cares Client



event profile



FAYETTE
Cares

What is A Night of Southern Elegance?

A Night of Southern Elegance is an elegant evening of fine wine and dining, an extraordinary auction, and lively dancing. Typically a sold-out crowd of 450 guests from Fayette, Shelby and surrounding counties attend, with hundreds more supporting the event through auction donations and volunteerism. This year's winter themed gala, titled Winter Nights, begins with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction featuring a wide array of items from businesses throughout the Mid-South and beyond. Event guests enjoy a splendid dinner, followed by a live auction featuring exceptional items and unique experiences. The evening concludes with the crowd dancing to a live band late into the night.

What do event proceeds support?

Event proceeds allow Fayette Cares to continue the 30 year history of ending homelessness, breaking the cycle of domestic violence, and empowering families in economic crisis to achieve financial stability.

How long has A Night of Southern Elegance been in existence?

We celebrate our 8th annual event on November 5, 2016.

What is the date and location of A Night of Southern Elegance, Winter Nights?

Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 6:00 pm to Midnight in Oakland, TN.

How much are tickets?

\$125 Per Person / \$250 Per Couple / \$900 Per Table of 8 / \$1,500 Per Premium Donation Option

Where can I purchase tickets?

Call 901-465-3802 ext. 223 or visit FayetteCares.com/Gala.com

Tickets will be available early August





The Birth of A Night of Southern Elegance

With the sudden economic downturn in mid-2008 Fayette Cares experienced a 10-fold increase in the number of requests for services from individuals and families in need. Donations from faithful community supporters continued, but simply were not enough to meet the rapidly escalating need. With the agency's largest fundraising event an inaugural 5k run raising \$15,000, Fayette Cares took a bold step to dedicate resources to develop fundraising events. The goal: Develop events that would drive continued **revenue growth**, provide critical and **sustainable funding**, provide heightened **agency visibility**, **attract new**

supporters and energize volunteers, donors and event participants by putting the FUN in FUNdraising!

A few months later the idea of an elegant dinner and auction event was met with diametrically opposed reactions. Seemingly 50% of individuals polled reacted with shock; assuring us Fayette County would never support an event that didn't fit the mold (ticket prices <\$35 each, blue jeans as preferred attire, held in a barn with peanuts or wood shavings on the floor). However the common theme from the other 50% was best summed up by a local resident as "Wow. Finally a reason to wear something other than khaki pants without having to drive into Memphis!"

A Night of Southern Elegance was born. While selling tickets to the inaugural event was admittedly a challenge at \$200/couple, amazing donors like Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals transformed a private residence and barn into an elegant and memorable event. By the end of the evening 220 guests had enjoyed a lively cocktail hour, silent and live auction, and a delicious dinner followed by live music and dancing. **Most importantly, these guests and supporters raised over \$30,000 in net proceeds to help families in crisis!**



Quickly becoming known as the premier event in Fayette County, A Night of Southern Elegance has grown to a sold-out crowd of 450+ guests from Shelby and Fayette Counties and beyond, 200+ silent auction items, an entertaining live auction and a crowd that dances from the first song till the final encore!

Thanks to the amazing generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers and guests, the event that many thought would never work **now generates 25% of Fayette Cares, annual budget, raising over \$135,000 in net proceeds in 2015.**

These funds have helped expand shelters within Fayette Cares innovative and award-winning transitional housing program for homeless families, purchase an agency van to provide client transportation to job interviews, medical and other appointments critical to their path towards independence, enhanced domestic violence and homelessness prevention services, and much more.

A Night of Southern Elegance makes a difference in people's lives.



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www.FayetteCares.org

We Think Big and Out of the Box

From surprising our guests with a **Fire & Ice theme (2012)** complete with **professional ice skaters performing on a synthetic ice surface** (which we subsequently sold in our live auction), to an **Under the Stars rooftop party (2011)** with a **faux elevator** that literally had guests believing they had **traveled to the upper floor of a single-story building**, our event leadership team focuses on **continuous improvement and “wowing” our guests.**



A highlight of our 2014 event was the introduction of a Premium Donation Option (\$1,500 for 8 guests) including a **luxury vehicle and driver to pickup guests** at the location of their choice, transporting them to and from the event. This unique benefit, sponsored by **Sunrise Buick GMC at Wolfchase**, combined with premium dinner wine, preferred seating and other benefits provided a valuable option for guests traveling from Shelby and Fayette Counties and beyond.

Sponsors and Donors Make A Night of Southern Elegance a Success

The success of A Night of Southern Elegance is credited largely to our sponsors and donors who lend their names, financial support and generous auction donations to the event. Since 2009 this has included truly amazing support including:

- Mobile bidding sponsored by **Memphis Contract Packaging**
- Event decor rental items donated in part by **Mahafey Tent and Party Rentals**
- Premium beers donated annually by **Central Distributors, Inc.**
- Catering services fully donated by **Me & My Tea Room Catering**
- Food ingredients donated by **SuperLo Foods and Kroger**



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“You set the bar so high ... I can’t wait to see what you’ve got planned (next)!”

Chuck Thomas

Regional Director of External & Legislative Affairs, AT&T Inc.



“Tremendous! People were blown away by the elegance of the event!”

Steve Dawson

Former Fox 13 TV Anchor



“The best party EVER!” to “The event of the year.”

Guest Comments



“My contributions create opportunities for homeless families to become self-sufficient and that’s a great way to really get involved in the community.”

Brent Stone

Edward Jones Financial Advisor



press releases

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FAYETTE
Cares



Get Your Tickets to Prevent Homelessness and Domestic Violence in the Mid-South

A Night of southern Elegance Annual Gala tickets are now available. Proceeds support Fayette Cares, a nonprofit fighting domestic violence, homelessness and financial crisis in the Mid-South since 1986.

OAKLAND, TN SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 – Fayette Cares, a non-profit organization that's dedicated to fighting homelessness, domestic violence and financial crisis throughout the Mid-South will host its 9th Annual A Night of Southern Elegance Gala on Saturday, November 4, 2017 to raise funds to support the agency and its programming. Tickets are now on sale.

The Gala will be held at Ring Companies headquarters in Oakland, TN at 6:00 pm. This year features a black and white theme. This festive event includes a silent auction accompanied by a variety of unique appetizers, followed by a delicious dinner reception and live auction. The night will conclude with dancing to the amazing sounds of Almost Famous.

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, donate an auction item or learn more about the event, please visit FayetteCares.org/A-Night-of-Southern-Elegance or contact Fayette Cares at (901) 465-3802 x223. Car service is included with select tickets, courtesy of Sunrise Buick GMC at Wolfchase.

The Gala is an exciting event that brings together people from all over the Mid-South that genuinely want to make a difference, raising thousands of dollars to prevent and intervene in domestic violence, homeless and financial crisis situations.

"There has never been a more important time to stand against domestic violence in support of our community" said Pam Rose, CFO of Fayette Cares. "Tennessee is the 10th worst state for domestic violence crimes with 51% of reported crimes against persons being domestic violence crimes in 2016." Fayette Cares offers a comprehensive domestic violence intervention program helping families from all over the Mid-South break the cycle of abuse. They provide shelter, court advocacy, support groups, safety plans, and other essential resources.

Fayette Cares is a participant in the [Tennessee State Plan to End Homelessness](#). "Homelessness is not just an urban issue, many rural communities have homeless issues and often face more barriers such as transportation and employment options." states Alexandra Wardlaw, Executive Director. "At Fayette Cares, our emergency shelter program helps families bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing. We provide shelter, budgeting plans, life skills, financial counseling and additional resources." After participating in the emergency shelter program, 70% of clients obtained employment.

About

The mission of Fayette Cares is to empower those in need with solutions to end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and create stability and self-sufficiency from crisis. Fayette Cares has served the Mid-South as a community-supported non-profit organization since 1986 and is a United Way agency.

Fayette Cares

FayetteCares.org

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A Night of Southern Elegance Black & White Gala 2017

ANightofSouthernElegance.com
Donations@FayetteCares.org



Press Contact

Ashley Rae Burnett
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Mid-South non-profit helps Tennessee's Plan to End Homelessness with Annual Gala

OAKLAND, TN JUNE 29, 2017 – The date has been announced for the 9th annual A Night of Southern Elegance, the foremost gala in Fayette County and one of the most prominent in the Mid-South. The event will be held on Saturday, November 4th, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Ring Companies in Oakland, TN. This spectacular event will benefit Fayette Cares, a non-profit with a mission to fight domestic violence, homelessness, and financial crisis in the Mid-South and beyond. Fayette Cares is participating in the [Tennessee State Plan to End Homelessness](#) and has been fighting homelessness and domestic violence in the Mid-South since 1986.

The Black and White themed evening will begin with a cocktail reception where guests will have a chance to mingle and bid on an array of exciting silent auction items utilizing mobile bidding. The cocktail reception will be followed by dinner, a live auction and an evening of dancing with a live band. Generous and creative volunteers will once again transform a warehouse into a remarkable, elegant atmosphere.

"The funds raised from A Night of Southern Elegance are vital in ensuring clients of Fayette Cares have access to the resources needed to live healthy, self-sufficient lives. Our services facilitate stability and independence that might otherwise be very difficult to achieve," said Alexandra Wardlaw, Fayette Cares Executive Director.

WHAT: A Night of Southern Elegance Black & White Gala is an opportunity to experience a fun-filled evening to benefit the Fayette Cares programs.

WHEN: Saturday, November 4th, 2017 at 6:00 PM

WHERE: Ring Companies located at 65 Industrial Park Road, Oakland, TN

WHO: Community members, Fayette Cares donors and supporters are invited to attend. Individuals, businesses and community groups are encouraged to support the event by donating auction items or sponsoring the event, with a wide range of sponsorship opportunities available.

DETAILS:

- The A Night of Southern Elegance Black & White Gala includes cocktail hour, dinner, raffle, silent auction and live auction, live music and dancing.
- Proceeds benefit Fayette Cares programs including emergency shelter, supportive housing, dating violence awareness, financial assistance, counseling, education and more.
- Event ticket prices are \$125 per person or \$900 for a table of eight and \$1500 for a premium table. Tickets go on sale early August. To sign-up to receive event updates, please visit [ANightofSouthernElegance.com](#).
- For information about the event, to become a [sponsor](#), donate [auction items](#), or [volunteer](#) to support those in need, please contact Fayette Cares at Finance@FayetteCares.org, by calling 901-465-3802 x223, or at [ANightofSouthernElegance.com](#)

About

The mission of Fayette Cares is to empower those in need with solutions to end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and create stability and self-sufficiency from crisis. Fayette Cares has served the Mid-South as a community-supported non-profit organization since 1986.

Fayette Cares

[FayetteCares.org](#)

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A Night of Southern Elegance Black & White Gala 2017

[ANightofSouthernElegance.com](#)
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A Night of Southern Elegance a success with support from sponsors, guests and volunteers

OAKLAND, TN November 11, 2016 – On November 5th, nearly 450 supporters attended the 8th annual A Night of Southern Elegance, sponsored by FedEx, Ring Companies and the Town of Oakland. A Night of Southern Elegance is Fayette County’s premier gala where all proceeds benefit Fayette Cares.

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Fayette Cares will be able to improve the lives of people in our community in a significant way,” shared Fayette Cares Director, Alexandra Wardlaw. “We are thrilled by the response to the event and can’t thank FedEx, the Town of Oakland, Ring Companies and all of our event supporters enough.”

With the theme of Winter Nights, the charity gala offered a rustic, enchanting evening in the Mid-South. The Ring Companies’ facility was exquisitely decorated by the creative teams of Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals and Hometowne Flowers. For the first time ever, guests enjoyed a silent auction with mobile bidding technology sponsored by Memphis Contract Packaging. “Guests enjoyed seeing the array of great auction items, then engaging in bidding wars on their phones. It was convenient and fun!” said Shannon Kee, owner of Memphis Contract Packaging.

FedEx, a Diamond Sponsor, has been a longtime supporter of Fayette Cares and A Night of Southern Elegance. As a Diamond Sponsor, Ring Companies has made a generous donation and their headquarters in Oakland, TN was the location for the event.

This year, the Town of Oakland is a Platinum sponsor for the event. Mayor Chris Goodman states “It’s not only important it’s imperative that we fund the work of Fayette Cares. As our town grows and thrives we can’t turn a blind eye to our neighbors in need.” The mayor is strong proponent of strengthening the community by supporting programs like Fayette Cares to lift families out of crisis and on to a path of stability.

“Raising over 20% of Fayette Cares annual budget, this event has a huge impact on the lives of many in our community.” says Event Chairperson Marilyn Kain. “It is a testament to the talented, dedicated and caring volunteers who came together to make the event possible; giving back to the community by supporting Fayette Cares. They are awe inspiring.”

For information about the event or Fayette Cares please contact Fayette Cares at Info@FayetteCares.org, or by calling 901-465-3802 x223, or at ANightofSouthernElegance.com

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801-860-8012 | Ashley@TheRaeCreative.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[PHOTO ATTACHED]

September 24, 2015

CONTACT: Alexandra Wardlaw
(901) 465-3802 X 221

Debbie Sullivan Named 2015 A Night of Southern Elegance Honorary Chair

Debbie Sullivan recently received the distinct honor of being named Honorary Chair of *A Night of Southern Elegance* benefiting Fayette Cares, scheduled for November 7th. Sullivan has not only lent her support and talents as a Fayette Cares Executive Board member, she has an extensive history of leadership including having been the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce Board President, Business and Professional Women's Club President, member of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, and Alumni of first graduating class of Leadership Fayette.

As a guest Sullivan never misses *A Night of Southern Elegance*. "Who doesn't love a great party?!" she says, "But I do it for our community." In addition to her annual premium table purchase, Sullivan has donated and acquired substantial auction contributions, provided leadership in event planning and preparations, and coordinated hundreds of event volunteers. Her mission is to assure that the event is successful in raising funds to sustain the work of Fayette Cares.

Sullivan is particularly excited about the event theme of A Tropical Affair and knows guests will be stunned when they see the Memphis Shades warehouse in Rossville, Tennessee transformed into an elegant island resort decorated by Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals and Hometowne Flowers.

The evening will continue to impress with fine dining catered by Simply Delicious Caterings, recently named Best Catering Service in the Commercial Appeal's Memphis Most 2015 competition. Following an electrifying auction, attendees will dance the night away to a live performance by nine time Grammy nominee Almost Famous, sponsored by Memphis Contract Packaging. Hailing from Memphis Tennessee, various members of this band have performed for President Bush and President Clinton, as well as NFL Superbowl pregame, and on November 7th will rock *A Night of Southern Elegance*.

Guests can select the premium option of a table of eight, Sunrise Buick GMC at Wolfchase luxury vehicle and driver to and from the event, preferred seating, premium dinner wine from The Stellar Cellar Wine & Spirits, and expedited auction checkout.

This exceptional event is essential to fund the work of Fayette Cares, allowing for services to reach homeless families, victims of abuse, and those in financial crisis. It

takes the tremendous support of volunteers like Debbie Sullivan and sponsors including Diamond Sponsor Town of Oakland, Platinum Sponsor Ring Companies, Wine Wall Sponsor Renaissance Realty, and other sponsors to deliver life changing services to nearly 1,500 people per year.

To reserve tickets, sponsor, donate, volunteer, or learn more about A Night of Southern Elegance on November 7th, 2015 visit ANightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802 x 221.

###

Picture:

Debbie Sullivan receives the well-deserved honor of being named 2015 Honorary Chair for *A Night of Southern Elegance* scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. To her left is her husband John Sullivan and on her right, son Gideon Sullivan.

Fayette Cares, Inc.
P.O. Box 326 ● Somerville, TN 38068 ● (901) 465-3802
www.fayettecares.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[PHOTO ATTACHED]

September 10, 2015

CONTACT: Alexandra Wardlaw
(901) 465-3802 X 221

**Town of Oakland Sponsors Nov. 7th *A Night of Southern Elegance*
benefiting Fayette Cares**

The Town of Oakland Tennessee has taken the lead in supporting Fayette Cares as the first ever Diamond Sponsor for *A Night of Southern Elegance* on Saturday, November 7th. “It's not only important it's imperative that we fund the work of Fayette Cares,” says Town of Oakland Mayor Chris Goodman, “as our town grows and thrives we can't turn a blind eye to our neighbors in need.”

Like many, the mayor cares about those among us who face dire circumstances including homelessness and domestic violence. Mayor Goodman goes on to say "our children may go to school together, we may sit next to them in church or shop at the same grocery store but never realize that these are families trapped in unstable and violent situations. When we support programs like Fayette Cares we strengthen our community by lifting families out of crisis and on to a path of stability.” The Town of Oakland joins committed organizations including Ring Companies in helping to raise nearly a quarter of the annual operating costs for the Fayette Cares shelter, which houses nearly 30 people, as well as non-residential crisis and domestic violence intervention services.

With the theme of *A Tropical Affair*, the charity gala will offer an elegant island escape in the Mid-South. The Memphis Shades warehouse in Rossville, TN will be exquisitely decorated by the creative teams of Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals and Hometowne Flowers. Guests will enjoy a silent and live auction including vacation getaways, unique party experiences, jewelry, sporting events, memorabilia and more. Also included in the fun is dinner and dancing with a live performance by Almost Famous, sponsored by Memphis Contract Packaging.

With help from Sunrise Buick GMC at Wolfchase, a special premium table option is available offering guests a table of eight, luxury vehicle and driver to and from the event, preferred seating, premium dinner wine from The Stellar Cellar Wine & Spirits, and expedited auction checkout.

To reserve tickets, sponsor or learn more about *A Night of Southern Elegance* on November 7th, 2015 visit ANightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802 x 221.

Photo: Pictured at the 2014 *A Night of Southern Elegance* are dignitaries and guests of event sponsor Town of Oakland. From left are Michael and Jennifer Tilghman, Gena Goodman, Sean Krepela, Town of Oakland Mayor Chris Goodman, Clayton Bank President Jennifer Clayton, Oakland Regional Chamber Director Pattie Krepela, and Jodi Morris. Join caring Fayette Cares supporters at *A Night of Southern Elegance* on November 7, 2015. Learn more at ANightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802 x 221.

media coverage



FAYETTE
Cares

A NIGHT OF SOUTHERN ELEGANCE FOR FAYETTE CARES

Story Submitted | Photos by Joey Murchison



Jennifer and Michael Tilghman made for Fayette Cares Fund-A-Need and Shelter Naming rights were deeply heartwarming. For 2016, Memphis Contract Packaging/Softee will hold the honor of naming the Fayette Cares Supportive Housing units, while Russel and Cindy Rutledge will be able to name the emergency shelter units.

Hometowne Florist of Somerville creatively adorned bamboo, harvested in Fayette County, using bird-of-paradise, Anthurium and other exotic flora for a tropical entrance at A Night of Southern Elegance – A Tropical Affair benefiting Fayette Cares. More than 500 guests and volunteers joined this party with a purpose in support of efforts to end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and to provide stability for families in crisis. Rapid-fire bidding could have caused auctioneer Dwight Jones of RJ Auctions to have whiplash as bids flew across the room for vacation getaways, hunting trips and even diamonds. Additionally, contributions



Rosa and Kenneth Carter



Jonathan Mah and Mary He



Gena and Mayor Chris Goodman



Sean and Pattie Krepela



Susan Wilson and John Chales



Brent and Amy Stone



Debbie Sullivan and Alexandra Wardlaw



Joe and Becky Perdue



Dr. Barton and Cristy Thrasher



Tina Glover



Paul Coombs and Marilyn Kain

Fayette Cares supporters put a little love in their hearts

By Alexandra Wardlaw, *Special To My Life*

Posted: Nov. 23, 2013

Hundreds of sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers opened their hearts to create an event in support of the work of Fayette Cares.

A Night of Southern Elegance From the Heart raised funds for Fayette Cares.

The affair began with cocktails and a silent auction in The Barn of Heartwood Hall.

Guests then journeyed past the antebellum Heartwood Hall Main House and the cobblestone courtyard of the Four Seasons Garden.

Next came dinner for 450 guests in a Classic Party Rentals tent with floral accents from Twigs-n-Things.

A special meal was presented by Heartwood Hall and award winning Chef Edward

Nowakowski of the University of Memphis Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management.

After a video and testimonial from a Fayette Cares client who had escaped abuse, donors contributed to fund the agency's shelter expansion project.

Leading the contributions were the Knights of Columbus, who nearly tripled their annual gift to Fayette Cares.

This was followed by a conga line orchestrated by Entertainment Sponsor Memphis Contract Packaging, to the tune of the Annie Lennox and Al Green hit "Put a Little Love in Your Heart."

Finally, there was dancing into the night to the Kevin and Bethany Paige Band.

Sponsors included Ring, The Town of Oakland, Stellar Cellar Wine & Spirits, The Bank of Fayette County, Fayette Industrial, Renaissance Realty, AT&T, Bank of America, BancorpSouth, Edward Jones, Fayette Academy, First Citizens National Bank, and Somerville Bank and Trust.

Event photos provided by Noel Pennington Photography and Jim Larkin can be viewed at fayettecares.org.

To learn more about the works of Fayette Cares or make a donation toward the agency's shelter expansion project call 901-465-3802, extension 221, or e-mail info@fayettecares.org. Fayette Cares Inc. is a United Way member agency.

Alexandra Wardlaw Is Executive Director For Fayette Cares Inc.



Mingling at the event are Town of Oakland Mayor Chris Goodman and his wife Gena are among those attending the Fayette Cares fundraiser, A Night of Southern Elegance à from the Heart.

Faux Fire And Synthetic Ice Bring Wow Factor To Charity Event

By Alexandra Wardlaw, *Special To My Life*

Posted: Dec. 2, 2012

More than 450 guests were mesmerized by a graceful skater gliding atop synthetic ice, donated by Global Synthetic Ice, as they entered the venue for A Night of Southern Elegance — Fire & Ice, an event held Nov. 3 benefiting Fayette Cares.

These charitable partygoers delighted in the whimsical use of faux flames flickering in a fireplace and up the venue walls.

While sampling The Stellar Cellar Wine & Spirits beverages with spicy-hot and minty-cool flavors, guests browsed the exquisitely decorated silent auction tables, placing bids to support services that end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and create stability for families in financial crisis.

The venue at Ring Companies' warehouse was transformed by the creative contributions of Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals, Twigs-n-Things, and Moonshine Lighting, who used flame lighting effects, exotic floral in fiery colors, and decorative drapery to incorporate the Fire & Ice theme throughout the night.

Not only were impressive ice sculptures adorning the dining area, guests were treated to illuminated, miniature ice molds that held champagne sorbet as an intermezzo for the nut-crusted pork tenderloin and turban of flounder filet in lemon-berry sauce. The meal was prepared and presented by Chef Edward Nowakowski, executive chef and food and beverage director of Holiday Inn at the Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management, University of Memphis, and Chef Carol Silkes PH.D, assistant professor at Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management, University of Memphis, and Fayette Cares volunteer Mendi Donnelly. Exceptional wait service was provided by the Knights of Columbus from St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church.



Among the impressive features of A Night of Southern Elegance - Fire & Ice benefiting Fayette Cares was a synthetic ice surface donated by Global Synthetic Ice. Skating elegantly at the event is volunteer Caroline Harris.

Co-emcees News Channel 3 meteorologist Jim Jagers and former Fox 13 morning weather anchor Leon Griffin spread fun like wildfire, while cool honorary co-chairmen Rube and Margaret Ann Rhea, and Terry and Wendy Renoux delivered heartfelt speeches to ignite passion for the good works of Fayette Cares.

Party Planet's Al Paris, former lead singer for Kool and the Gang, was smoking hot as he and the band performed fiery hits including Disco Inferno, Hot Stuff, and Fire. Guests were burning up the dance floor until the final song.

But pushing A Night of Southern Elegance — Fire & Ice to the boiling point was the tremendous generosity of Fayette Cares' sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers who helped raise nearly one quarter of the annual operating budget needed to continue the charitable works.

For more information, visit fayettecares.org or anightofsouthernelegance.com. Fayette Cares, Inc. is a United Way member agency.

Alexandra Wardlaw is executive director for Fayette Cares, Inc.

Strong Women Build Strong Communities



Guests eagerly await the Saturday, November 1st A Night of Southern Elegance event benefiting Fayette Cares. Pictured are prior year party-goers enjoying the festivities made special with contributions from Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals.

By Alexandra Wardlaw,
Executive Director

From fabulous weddings, charity galas, corporate events to Super Bowls and presidential inaugurations, Carol Gilleran, General Manager of Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals, demonstrates strength and creativity every day.

Recognized as one of Inc.com's "5000 Fastest-Growing Companies in America", Mahaffey also provides vital community support. "Since joining Mahaffey in 2012, I have been amazed at the outpouring of support for organizations that truly make a difference. We are honored to touch so many lives of the underprivileged and abused by partnering with Fayette Cares," says Gilleran.

With such a caring and community oriented mentality, it was no surprise Mahaffey and Fayette Industrial not only returned as event sponsors for Fayette Cares A Night of Southern Elegance gala, but increased their gifts as well.

"While our industrial services and janitorial businesses

serve customers across the U.S., it is a priority for us to support the local community," says Michelle Burns, owner of Fayette Industrial and Fayette Janitorial. "Fayette Cares provides a tremendous service to the community and we are proud to sponsor A Night of Southern Elegance."

Gilleran and Burns are not only advocates for community growth but also for the empowerment of women, in society and the work place. Fayette Cares is honored and privileged to have such strong businesses and business women supporting A Night of Southern Elegance on Saturday, November 1st at Heartwood Hall.

Strong women are no strangers to Fayette Cares. The staff and volunteers who provide domestic violence intervention services recognize that survivors of abuse are among the strongest people in our communities. Although this is a crime perpetrated primarily against women, it is not solely a women's issue, rather a community problem. Schools, businesses, churches, and

families are all affected by domestic violence. Turning a blind eye not only perpetuates abuse in a single household, it creates an unhealthy tolerance for such behavior.

With high profile NFL domestic abuse cases, community awareness is high, particularly during October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, call the Fayette Cares hotline (901) 466-0015 for free, confidential help 24 hours a day. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to join sponsors like Ring Container Technologies, Town of Oakland, Dave and Kathy Liebetreu, Memphis Contract Packaging, and other tremendous supporters of Fayette Cares. All are invited to contribute an auction item, sponsor, or volunteer for the charity fundraising event. For more information visit www.aNightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802 x 221. Fayette Cares is a United Way Agency.

oaklandNEWS

Hall of Fame inductee announced as Fayette Cares event Honorary Chair

by Graham Sweeney on October 10, 2014 in News

Lifelong Fayette County resident, president of Agricenter International, and National Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee John Charles Wilson has been named Honorary Chair of A Night of Southern Elegance benefiting Fayette Cares on Nov. 1.

Wilson has been an advocate for agriculture and conservation throughout his life. Just as he has a passion for soil conservation, so too has he poured his heart into serving those in need.

“That’s what the Bible tells us to do,” said Wilson about the importance of supporting the work of Fayette Cares.

Wilson points out that as a person who has been blessed, he is called on to share his blessings with those less fortunate.

For years, Wilson has been attending A Night of Southern Elegance and making substantial live auction contributions so that the event is successful in raising funds to sustain the work of Fayette Cares.

He now invites the community to contribute auction items, attend, sponsor, or volunteer for this elegant charity dinner and fundraiser.

New this year is the opportunity to support the cause by purchasing a \$20 drawing ticket for a chance to win an Exmark Pioneer S-Series zero-turn riding mower valued at \$6,999 from H&R Agri-Power in Somerville, a \$5,000 pair of 14kt gold diamond earrings sponsored by Doron Diamond Direct, or a \$1,000 Costco gift card.

A Night of Southern Elegance is a fun party with a purpose that helps give hope to families facing homelessness, domestic violence, or financial crisis. To sponsor, donate or volunteer visit www.aNightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802, Ext. 221. Fayette Cares is a United Way Agency.



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Oakland NEWS



FAYETTE CARES PRESENTS

A Night of Southern Elegance

Jewels of Hope



Support displayed for charity at A Night of Southern Elegance

SPECIAL TO
The News

Illuminated by an archway of dazzling lights, a crowd of nearly 500 guests entered the breathtaking outdoor Mahaffey Tent & Party Rental structure to enjoy A Night of Southern Elegance benefiting Fayette Cares.

Early figures show that tremendous community support from sponsors, guests, donors, and volunteers helped Fayette Cares raise a record breaking \$135,000 in net proceeds.

This fabulous affair began in the elegant Heartwood Hall barn where guests bid generously on silent auction items including a brilliant selection of jewels from Doron Diamond Direct.

A sumptuous dinner, prepared by the chefs of Heartwood Hall, was served among beautiful floral décor from Twigs-n-Things in a party venue like no other.

Atop a round stage in a 100' x 100' clear span tent provided by Mahaffey Tent & Party Rental, event Honorary Chair John Charles Wilson gave a moving speech.

An exciting live auction followed, providing offerings ranging from glamorous Hilton Head yacht club vacations, jewels, and lavish dinner parties, to earthy Wolf River canoe trips, Rocky Mountain trout fishing, and locavore feasts among the sunflowers.

Supporters enjoyed a



fun opportunity to outbid each other in order to fund the treasured work of Fayette Cares.

The crowd then helped Fayette Cares fund a special need – a 15-passenger van provided by Sunrise Buick GMC at Wolfchase. This crucial piece of equipment will enable families in need to access employment opportunities, medical care, and other resources to empower their transition toward stability.

To end the evening on a high note, Al Paris and the Heartbreakers filled the room with excitement keeping the party crowd on their feet and dancing. The band weaved musical favorites and choreography with crowd involvement, creating a high energy celebration.

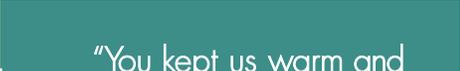
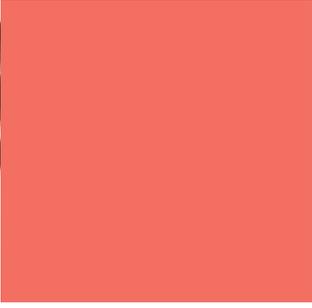
Fayette Cares is grateful for the support of hundreds of volunteers, donors, and sponsors including Heartwood Hall, Mahaffey Tent & Party Rentals, Ring Container Technologies, The Stellar Cellar Wine & Spirits, Town of Oakland, Central Distributors, Dave and Kathy Liebetreu, Fayette Industrial and Fayette Janitorial, Memphis Contract Packaging, Twigs-n-Things, and other tremendous supporters of Fayette Cares.

For event photos and information, visit www.aNightofSouthernElegance.com or call (901) 465-3802, ext. 221. Fayette Cares is a United Way Agency.

Literature



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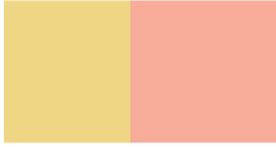


"You kept us warm and kept us from being hungry..."

Thank you

from the bottom of our hearts."

FAYETTE CARES...
Do You?



HELP AND HOPE

Each year Fayette Cares assist hundreds of families in crisis by providing:

- Shelter and Supportive Housing
- Domestic Violence Intervention
- Emergency Food
- Clothing, Housewares and Furniture
- Rent and Utility Aid



INDEPENDENCE AND SOLUTIONS

Fayette Cares works to end homelessness helping families learn to become self-sufficient. Life skills classes include:

- Job Skills
- Money Management
- Parenting
- Health and Nutrition



SAFETY FROM ABUSE

Fayette Cares offers options and resources to escape violence, by providing:

- 24-hour Hotline
- 911 Cell Phone
- Court Support
- ADT Security Systems
- Shelter and Housing



FAYETTE
Cares

GREAT DEALS FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Shopping at the Fayette Cares Boutique on the Square helps fund services. Find a bargain and change a life.

Shop:

106 E. Market St. Somerville
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Donate:

13300 N. Main St. Somerville
Mon-Sat 9am-4pm

Fayette Cares, Inc.
13300 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 326
Somerville, TN 38068
Phone: 901-465-3802 • Fax: 901-466-9934
fayettecares.org



"You helped me and my four children and inspired me to teach a class on domestic violence. *A life saved.*"



901.465.3802 | FAYETTECARES.ORG

Digital media

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