



The annual Empire Ball was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City earlier this month. The fundraiser, presented by the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) Foundation Real Estate Division and heavily supported by the New York real estate community and its affiliates, raised more than \$1.3 million in support of the DRI, topping last year's \$1 million total. The DRI, located at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, is a recognized world leader in cure-focused research. This year's event honored Jody Durst, president of The Durst Organization, for his philanthropic efforts, including diabetes research, and the company's commitment to the betterment of the City

of New York. Additionally, Ted Moudis, AIA, senior principal of Ted Moudis Associates, received the Camillo Ricordi Humanitarian Award for his generous philanthropy in the battle against diabetes and his strong dedication to environmentally responsible building practices and design. Richard C. Heller, senior vice president of Malkin Holdings, LLC, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for his unwavering dedication to raising funds for the Empire Ball and the DRI. The event was chaired by Peter L. DiCapua, COO for Atco Properties & Management, Inc. and chairman of the DRI Real Estate Division. Top l-r: Ron Darling, Ted Moudis, Jody Durst, Richard C. Heller. Middle l-r: Michele Medaglia, Ted Moudis, Dr. Camillo Ricordi. Bottom: Gaston Silva, Vornado Realty Trust; and Jody Durst, The Durst Organization.

The program, funded by High Ridge Park and the City of Stamford Community Arts Partnership Program, meets the Connecticut Education Standards for American History and Social Studies. The Stamford Symphony provides musicians trained to teach the program while working with the Club to develop the curriculum and teaching materials.



JODI GUTIERREZ

"We are pleased to be able to continue this wonderful program for a fifth year," said Jodi Gutierrez, VP of property management for George Comfort & Sons and On-Site Property Manager at High Ridge Park Corporate Center.

"The lifelong passion for music that many of the children develop is only one of the many benefits of this unique curriculum."

This past year, 120 Boys & Girls Club members in grades 1-5 participated in the program. At the end of the program, 20 of the participants took part in a Music Bee contest to showcase all they had learned.

CHILDREN'S HAPPY FACES FOUNDATION

Industry making things smiles better

Children's Happy Faces Foundation took to the greens to help families in crisis.

Held at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, with additional foursomes teeing off at Trump National Golf Club, the event raised more than \$360,000 on behalf of Ronald McDonald House New York and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Hudson Valley.

"Thanks to the extraordinary support that we have received leading up to this event, Children's Happy Faces Foundation has raised more than \$1 million since our inception four years ago to support causes that help families in the fight," said David Lipson, managing director of the event's title sponsor Century Management Services, and event chair.

"When you see the happy faces on these kids, it all makes sense. Without the generous support of such compassionate hearts and minds, we could not have accomplished this tremendous feat."

"We are always grateful for the support of volunteer groups such as Children's Happy Faces, whose hard work and commitment to families is a shining example of extraordinary volunteer service," said William T. Sullivan, president & CEO of Ronald McDonald House New York.

In addition to Century Management Services, the fundraiser was also supported by a number of notable organizations that included Platinum Sponsor NCB, and Gold Sponsors Efficient Combustion & Cooling Corporation, Hercules Corporation and Mustang Harry's. Morgan Stanley, Hess Corporation, Skanska USA Building, Inc., and the New York Association of Realty Managers also contributed to the day's success.



Children's Happy Faces event chair David Lipson is pictured with Ronald McDonald House/New York CEO William Sullivan.