

News Release

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Juno Foundation of Orlando holds 6th Annual Gala

The Juno Foundation of Orlando held its 6th Annual Juno Gala, Saturday, February 9 at the Hilton Altamonte Springs.

The event is the major fundraising event for Juno, an organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of gay women with cancer, their partners and caregivers. Juno works to raise awareness and promote advocacy, serve as a resource and information clearing house, provide peer-led support, and award grants to improve the health and well being of cancer patients.

Nearly 200 people attended this year's event, which included silent and live auctions, award presentations, and live entertainment. Corporate sponsors included MetLife Auto & Home, Physician's Associates and Meeting Movers, Inc. Each year since its inception in 2004 the gala has grown in size and donations.

Juno's 2008 Zena Award was presented to Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida, who spoke to the gathering about current gay rights issues. The Zena award is a humanitarian award in honor of Juno's first grant recipient Zena Johnson, who lost her battle with cancer last year.

Hank Lewis, executive director of Joy Charities, Inc., and board of directors of GLBBC, said "I was honored to attend this celebration and fundraiser. It is my desire and that of the GLIBs board of directors to reach out into our community and work together to help each other further the many worthwhile causes we all represent."

The evening's entertainment – with a Disco Fever theme – was provided by R&B and disco singer Evelyn "Champagne" King, and Varietease CARNIVALE, featuring creator and visionary babyBLUE, winner of the 16th Annual Orlando International Fringe Festival Patron's Pick Award.

The event concluded with a dance-til-you-drop party hosted by DJ Frankie D. "Juno is thrilled that our gala guests had such a fabulous and rewarding evening," said Juno founder and President Genie Wood. "Our board works very hard to put on bigger and

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better events each year and our feedback for this event has been phenomenal. The spirit of Juno touched everyone and we give thanks for our supporters.”

Juno was founded in 2003 by Patti Williams and Genie Wood, who were motivated by the experience of close friends and family members with cancer. They formed the organization to honor survivors and to help this underserved community battle their illness.

During 2007 Juno awarded seven grants, bringing their total to 13 grants since achieving grant giving status in December 2005.

Juno’s next fund raising event is their 2nd Annual Juno Scramble Charity Golf Tournament set for September.

The Juno Foundation was voted a 2007 Spectrum Award Winner by GLBCC and was selected as a signature charity by the Orlando Metropolitan Business Association Come Out with Pride 2007 gay flag volunteer brigade.

The Juno Foundation of Orlando is a Florida 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, charitable organization.

For more information about Juno or its events, visit their website at www.junofoundation.org or call 407.451.3344.

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