

Gala Raises Funds To Aid Teachers, Students

By Dave Bell

More than 100 items – ranging from St. Louis Cardinal tickets, to steaks, to student artwork – were sold Saturday night at the second annual Light The Way Gala fundraising auction.

Sponsored by the Bond County Community Unit No. 2 Academic Foundation, the auction raised more than \$16,000 to provide needed classroom resources for district teachers. The

foundation also provides college scholarships for district graduates who are furthering their education.

Proceeds from ticket sales, the 50-50 drawing and other related fundraising activities have yet to be tallied.

“Fundraisers like this go straight to teachers and kids,” said Superintendent Wes Olson. “In these uncertain financial times, when state funding has been cut and cut and cut, this

group has stepped up to fill the void. This is a powerful statement of the community’s support.”

Held at Copper Dock Winery near Pocahontas, the event included a dinner, a silent auction, and a live auction. Helping with the live auction was Langham Auctioneers.

Don Dillon, president of the academic foundation, said that the auction idea was first introduced last year, but already has

proven to be a powerful tool to help teachers do their job better.

“This is a way to be able to give them the things they need in their classrooms,” Dillon said. “If the teachers ask for something and the district can’t afford it, we try to get it for them.”

“We see our foundation as an advocate for Bond County schools,” he continued, “and an event like this helps bring people together in support of our teachers and students.”

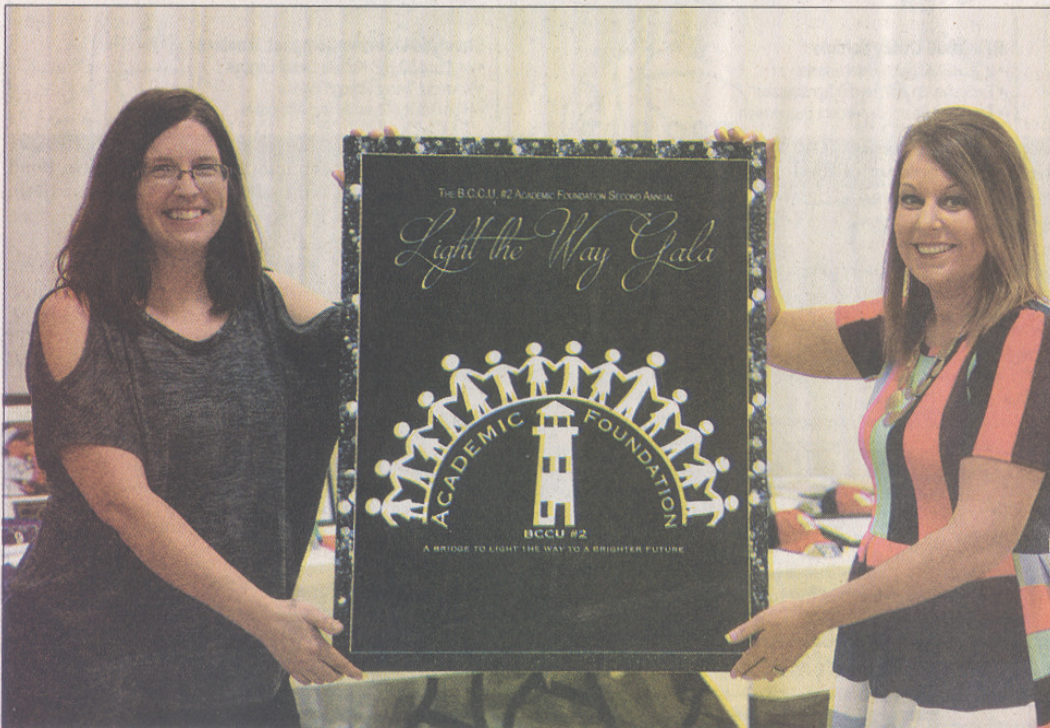
At the beginning of the evening, the foundation unveiled its new logo. It consists of an image of a lighthouse surrounded by a half circle of people holding hands. The tagline on the bottom of the logo is: “A bridge to light the way to a brighter future.” The logo was created by Emma Nord, an eighth grader at Greenville Junior High School.

In the live auction portion of the program, 63 items were sold. The silent auction featured 48 items.

During the live auction, 10 people bought a chance to participate in a drawing for four front-row tickets to a St. Louis Cardinal game. The winner of that drawing, held at the conclusion of the evening, was Alan Gaffner.

Additionally, Ted Thies was the winner of a 50-50 raffle, which was worth \$1,570.

Current officers of the foundation are Don Dillon, president; Brant Frey, vice president; Amanda Dussold, treasurer; and Valerie Klenke, secretary.



LOGO UNVEILING: Bond County Community Unit No. 2 Academic Foundation board members Laura Wall, left, and Ashley Driemeyer, right, display the organization’s new logo at Saturday night’s “Light The Way Gala.”

Photo by Dave Bell



Academic Foundation Gala Activities

In addition to an auction, Saturday's fundraising event sponsored by the Bond County Community Unit No. 2 Academic Foundation included addresses by Superintendent Wes Olson, pictured above, and others. Support for the foundation was raised through a live auction as well as a silent auction, pictured below. More than \$16,000 was raised through the auctions. Those funds will be used to provide needed materials for teachers and college scholarships for district graduates.

Photos by Dave Bell

