American International Women’s Club of Cologne e.V.  
5th Annual Charity Gala  
January 30, 2010

Benefiting

We are happy to announce that between auction proceeds and cash donations we raised over 11,000 Euro! Thank You Bidders and Cash Donors!!!

Added to the money we raised for the Kinderhospiz Balthasar in earlier fundraising efforts, these new donations mean that we have reached our goal of 14,000 Euro!!

These funds will underwrite the Clown Therapy Program at Kinderhospiz Balthasar in Olpe. Balthasar was the first children’s hospice in Germany and has cared for over 500 children and their families since they opened their doors in 1989. They provide terminal children and their families a place where life is celebrated even when shortened by illness.

Following the tradition of Patch Adams, the introduction of therapeutic clowns to the Kinderhospiz Balthasar helps to bring smiles and laughter into their rooms. Through playful silliness, clowns provide an outlet for children (and parents) to express thoughts and feelings which might otherwise be too frightening or overwhelming to discuss. The physiological benefits of laughter and stress relief are also well documented and no less valuable for these young patients and their families. The AIWCC is proud to ensure this important program continues for another year.
Guests at this year’s Gala were greeted at the entry with the gift of red clown noses to reflect our focus on supporting clown therapy at the Kinderhospiz Balthasar. Many donned their noses for photographer Sara Hartmann and brought a definite air of levity to the formal photography.

Once inside, our 145 guests were able to peruse the wide variety of items up for auction – 81 items ranging from activities to home decor to jewelry and hi-tech made for the biggest number of auction items in our 5-year history. This year we tried something new by ending part of the silent auction early – adding a bit of competition and excitement to the beginning of the evening.
After an informative and highly moving speech by Frau Marion Riese of Kinderhospiz Balthasar, guests made their final bids on the last of the silent auction items in a pitch to raise more money for this worthy cause.

With the silent auction over, there was time to indulge in the dessert buffet and dance for a while before the live auction started. Julie Holter acted as Auctioneer for the final special items up for bid, including a Porsche Weekend, overnight at Schlosshotel Lerbach, helicopter sight-seeing tour, cooking class at Taku Restaurant and a private rooftop tour of the Dom. The Dom proved to be the biggest draw with heavy competitive bidding that ended at 725 Euro!
After the auction, dancing continued into the early hours of the morning…

In short, our 5th annual Charity Gala was a great success. The ambiance and service of the Excelsior Hotel Ernst, the gorgeous floral arrangements donated by Blumen Boutique Monika Schmitz, the generous support of our donors, the music of DJ Boris Meuter, and the enthusiastic participation of our guests resulted in a winning evening.

Throughout it all, our hostess, Master of Ceremonies and Charities Chair extraodinaire, Marie Bénédicte Luxem, motivated the crowd, announced our successes and reminded us all why we were there. Three cheers for Marie and a job well done!
AIWCC Gala Committee
Charities Chairperson
Marie Bénédicte Luxem

Gala Committee
MaLinda Hill          Tricia R. Saur
Claudia Hillebrand    Carol Windfuhr
Julie Holter          Susan Winstanley
Katrin Rüffer

Supporters
Kristine Berger       Dagmar Breitenbach       Fulvia Messale
Farina Boltersdorf    Michelle Grams           Susan Nowack
LeeAnne Bray-Klemusch Cynthia Lehmann         Deanna dal Pos

Thank you to our Generous Donors and Sponsors
Ah! und Oh!                        Lord Vishnus Couch
Amy Antin                          Majesty Paper
Trish Bannon                      Mediterana Spa
Bastian’s Café                    Becca Menshen
Youssef Belal                     Familie Middendorf
Chollada Blass                    Momotaro Restaurant
Blumen Boutique Monika Schmitz    Mrs Sporty Club
Carl Duisberg Centren Cologne    Neideck Bistro Restaurant
Conditorei Brehmers              Nissen Boutique
Fonomaniac Ltd                   Panahi
Heidrun Edelmann                 Parfumerie Karaminidis
The English Shop Cologne         Porsche Zentrum Köln
Excelsior Hotel Ernst            Rimowa
Galeria Kaufhof Köln             Rheinfotografie by Sara Hartmann
Giacomo Hair and Make up         Rosenow Optik
Glamorous Hippie by Betsy Heilmann Rossini Restaurant
Robin Meloy Goldsby             Lisa Salezius Design
Golfclub Am Alten Fließ e.V.     Schlosshotel Lerbach
Haar Visionen                    Prof. Dr. Barbara Schock-Werner
Hard Rock Café Germany          sonoro audio
Dr. Thomas Heiser              Starbucks Coffee Deutschland
Holmes Place                     Anouk Sulocki
Köln Tourismus                   Toshiba Europe
Kosmetik Petra Probst           Trade 4 Tec by Carolina Reinhardt
Landhaus Kuckuck                 Keiko Umeda-Faibeaux
Myriam Le Gallo                  Susan Winstanley
Life Flight                      Wundertüte
Charlotte von Lom Schmuck und Design
Photographs taken by our professional photographer Sara Hartmann are available for you to view and purchase on her website www.rheinfotografie.com. Just click on “Gallery” for a link to the AIWCC Gala (no password needed). If you are interested in purchasing photos, simply email Sara with your order (providing the jpeg #’s of the photos you would like) at sara@rheinfotografie.com and she will email you the photos and an invoice. Photos cost 5 Euro each, with 1 Euro from each photo going to Balthasar.