

Jitterbug Ball is another success for Hospice King Aurora



By Angela Gismondi

The spirit of generosity was alive and well at the Jitterbug Ball.

Hospice King-Aurora (HKA) held its biennial fundraiser this past Friday at Hazelton Manor in Vaughan. While the final numbers are still being tallied, organizers anticipate the event was the most successful in Hospice history.

For more than 30 years, HKA has provided invaluable services to hundreds of friends and neighbours including professionally-trained visiting volunteers, care-giver support and complimentary therapies. Every one of the programs is offered free of charge. HKA receives less than 30 per cent of funding from the government. Every second year, HKA hosts the Jitterbug Ball to generate funds for the Hospice Care and Bereavement Support Programs.

The Hospice receives more than 75 per cent of its funding from its fundraising initiatives and its greatest contributor to these funds is the Jitterbug Ball.

The event included dinner, dancing and a live and silent auction. The emcee for the night was Father Joe Gorman from Our Lady of Grace church in Aurora. Event co-chairs Leslie Hobson, Julie Symmes and Teresa van Schaik addressed the crowd at the ball. Hobson spoke about 10 years as a visiting volunteer.

“To be invited into someone’s home, into their life, at such a challenging time is a rare privilege,” stated Hobson. “And our only purpose is to make things easier for them – whatever that looks like.”

Julie Symmes spoke about the incredible support from the community through sponsorships and auction donations.

“Thank you to our many generous donors who support us time and again, and also to the new businesses and individuals who have stepped up and become part of the Hospice community,” said Symmes.

Teresa van Schaik acknowledged the hard work and long hours that go into planning and executing a successful event. She asked the Committee members to stand and be recognized. She also thanked the volunteers who were donating their time the evening of the event, and especially the guests who had turned out in record numbers.

For more information visit www.hospicekingaurora.com.