

Miracles Do Happen

“.....let us love one another, for love comes from God.” I John 4:11 NIV

Karyne Bruzik Collins and her son Todd of Osakis MN, both stricken with Muscular Dystrophy, were in need of a “handicap van” to get around. Both work for Service800 from their home.

High School classmates of Karyne’s, from Minneapolis, were given Godly inspiration to help them. This inspiration brought an idea which developed into a successful benefit - held at the Forada Supper Club in Forada on May 23, 2004. The supper club owners donated the use of their facility.

The benefit raised \$7,000.00, for a down payment on a van purchased from Metro Mobility located in Shakopee, MN. The love and caring of people from the Alexandria and Minneapolis areas made this a successful realization with the many donations of time, talents, and articles for the silent auction. On Karyne and Todd’s first ride in the van, the realization was that when someone asked, “Who brought you”? They could say, “Nobody, we came ourselves.”

The entertainment throughout the benefit and silent auction, enjoyed by over 400 spectators, started in the early afternoon by the talented “Country Couple”, from the Alexandria area. “Betty Rydell and Friends” continued with Betty and her talented young singers and dancers. This group of volunteer entertainers consisted of Randi Rae Friedl, Amanda Hawkinson, Laura Otremba, Alexandra Samson, Michelle Campion, and Patrick Vilella.

The “Blue Knights” from the Alexandria area entertained with many of our favorites. This was followed by yet livelier dance, two other classmates of Karyne’s, “Dennis and Mickey Zaviska’s Polka Band”. All who had their dancing shoes on enjoyed these bands. Elvis Presley made a smash appearance, when we thought Elvis was dead! Todd Anderson, the impersonator of Elvis, from Brooklyn Park entertained with Elvis oldies for the young and old alike.

Other participating entertainers: Judy Carlson, Darlene Henricks, Connie Rasmussen, Ed Barse, Father McGuire, Orlo Thompson and Tom Pitschka presented even more toward this great event.

Quotes from Karyne at the benefit; “When I found out I had MD, Dean and the kids were there! When I got my first braces, Dean and the kids were there! When I started using the cart, Dean and the kids were there! I would like to say ‘Thank You’ to my husband and kids.” “Now, real friends like you are impossible to comprehend”.

Karyne and Todd Collins, Audrey Pagano, and classmates Betty Rydell and Ardys Thorson want to thank all of talented people and many others who also donated their time and money to bless and make the benefit successful.