

On November 14th, Bethany Academy was transformed into the 1940's Bethany Whistle Stop. Some might think that this night was just fun and games but read further to learn about some behind-the-scenes blessings.

*The Entertainment - When we asked our secondary students if they could support this evening it was with a resounding YES! But this did not come without sacrifice. **Matt Frost** (aka Fred Astaire) had to miss his church's long anticipated Lock- In and **Mary LeVoir** (aka Ginger Rogers) danced despite a serious foot injury. **Corban Lapham** and **Matt Berend** (aka Abbott and Costello) put in long hours rehearsing as did **Hannah Johnson, Lydia Lee, and Megan Nieuwsma**. (The Andrew Sisters)*

*Auctioneer - **Sarah Whitson** opened the auction by auctioning off a \$100 bill. In the spirit of giving this \$100 item was purchased for \$200 that is double its value!! Plus, Sarah also passed up a full paying auction so she could participate in our Bethany Auction!*

***Kelly Flynn** won the Movado Watch worth \$600 on a \$3 raffle ticket but before I could hand her the watch she wanted it to go back onto the auction block to be bid on as a Live Auction Item. In total with raffle dollars and the live bidding, this single donation brought Bethany Academy \$800.*

*The wonderful reading wall was donated by **Kim and Chris Depies**. Chris was also the person who figured out a way to hang the enormous flag!*

*The North Platt story on the tables was the work of **Amy Morrison**. Plus Amy was the very important last set of eyes that made sure all the items were catalogued correctly.*

*The beautiful period posters that were hanging about were the art work of **Trudi Whitson** and **Jody Mixer**.*

*The reason we all looked so authentically dressed was because **Jill Rose** found authentic military wear and set up her Bethany Boutique weeks before the auction.*

*The registration and check out volunteers not only missed most of the live and silent auction but they also had to come in for training. Thank you **Tim Behnen, Jim Steiner, Lavonne Evenson, Kim Wedel, Dan and Karen Dahlman, Gail Nieuwsma** and our fabulous Secondary runners.*

*We would not have eaten a thing if not for the leadership of **Nicole Heintz** and her helpers, **Laura Myers, Lydia Buesgens, Megan Nieuwsma, Margaret Wennerlyn, Claire Elrod and Rachael Chant***

*Alumni **Laura Hagen** came in to help set up the silent auction items.*

*And of course, what would we do without those folks who just heard God say that we might need help in the office and gave us many hours of precious time, thanks to **Kris Engel, Carey Wennerlyn, and Karen Dahlman**, to name just a few.*

*You may have noticed we went high tech this year, but not without the help and computer knowledge of our very own **Mr. Mike Allison**.*

*Thank you to everyone for securing donations whether from your own treasure or by asking of businesses. A special thank you to **Anna Behnen** and **Claire Weigand**. The items were amazing!*

*Finally, how can I or the school sufficiently thank **Denise Tousley** and **Trudi Whitson** for the time, talent, and treasure that they sacrificed in order for this auction to be a success. Ladies you have served without a thought of yourself. We humbly thank you for your generosity.*

Thank you secondary students whether you entertained the troops, shined shoes, served root beer or were an all-around-helper we could not have had an auction without your help!

Auction results

Much of the data below was gathered because of a software program we purchased to help organize and advance our development efforts. This software will also have impact on all of our fundraisers to come. We hope you enjoy the results!

Gross Sales - \$18,750

Expenses- \$2,700 (about 1/2 of last year)

Silent and Live Auction items received 73% of their value

We had over 175 registered guests

Estimated Net Sales are \$15,700

To date we have collected \$31,000 towards our fundraising goal of \$800 per family. As stated in the "State of the School Address" the \$800 per family amount is already accounted for in the budget and does not impact our \$200,000 shortfall that is carried over from last year.

What is Next

After the auction when the building was clean and quiet, I sat before the Lord to thank him for His provision. I was humbly moved by His presence when He placed upon my heart the next step in our journey. In Haggai 1 vs 7-8, the Lord instructs His people to go into the mountains and bring down the timber to build a house, that He may be honored and take pleasure in.

The timber of Bethany Academy is **our students**. The auction was a memorable evening and honoring unto the Lord. I was struck with the amount of time and talent invested in the auction. I would like to challenge our community to help us put that same effort into our upcoming Open House on January 28, 2010. Please join me in prayer over the next two weeks as we prayerfully consider ways to creatively reach the families whose children will be filling our hallways next year. If you have interest in joining an Open House Marketing Team please email development@bethanyacademy.org.

Blessings on your day- Rosey Brausen