



Pink Party Kicks Off Volleyfest Fundraisers

By Michele Kent

Volleyfest geared up in style with its 7th Annual Pink Party held at the Gwinnett Center Grand Ballroom on April 27. The Key West-themed event raised money to fight breast cancer with a "Rock the Boat" diamond necklace and 2007 Sea Ray boat raffle, live auction, and music. A spectacular "Taste of North Metro Atlanta" allowed guests to assemble their own dinners from various restaurant stations lining the ballroom.

Volleyfest is a grassroots effort launched by Sheila Stevens and created to benefit local medical facilities in the education, care and early detection of breast cancer. The party kicked off a series of events including tennis and golf tournaments held in community country clubs to raise money for the cause.

aboutU was on hand to talk to Volleyfest hosts and supporters about what the annual event means to them.



Volleyfest founder Sheila Stevens with Pink Party Chairman Shannon Aisquith

SURVIVOR

Sue Ridgeway and Debbie Groff

Q Why did you choose to support Volleyfest?

A Debbie: "I am a 2 1/2 year breast cancer survivor and have felt the importance of causes such as this in my own life."

Sue: "I am playing for Debbie, to show her my support."



Q What was your favorite part of the evening?

A Debbie: "Experiencing the generosity of our community and seeing all the money that is being raised to help breast cancer patients."

Sue: The camaraderie; and the joy of winning this fight together."

Q Is this your first Volleyfest/Pink Party event?

A Debbie: "This is my fifth season; and I co-chair the Summit Chase Volleyfest."

Q What are your feelings about the progress modern medicine has made in the fight against breast cancer?

A Debbie: "I'm living proof that there have been wonderful advances in medicine and that more people than ever are beating breast cancer."

SUPPORTERS

Terri Dorris and Michelle Cornwall



Q Why did you choose to support Volleyfest?

A Michelle: "Simply because we know this could happen to us."

Q Have you or someone you know been affected by breast cancer?

A Terri: "We both have family and friends affected by breast cancer and wanted to proactively find a way to contribute to the fight."

Q What was your favorite part of the evening?

A Michelle: "Seeing the spirit and energy of a crowd who knows they are making a difference."

Q What are your feelings about the progress modern medicine has made in the fight against breast cancer?

A Terri: "A diagnosis of breast cancer is no longer a death sentence"

VOLLEYFEST BOARD MEMBER

Dr. David Whiteman and wife Sheri Whiteman

Q Why did you choose to support Volleyfest?

A Dr. Whiteman: "Six years ago, Lynn Roberts (Volleyfest's Vice President) and I discovered we had similar goals to raise awareness and help the fight against breast cancer. We combined our efforts to buy books for the Gwinnett Hospital Library and I have been working in support of Volleyfest ever since."



Q What impressed you about the evening?

A Sheri: "The hard work and determination the event organizers put into planning this event. Everything is staged so well, and the community response is terrific."

Q Is this your first Volleyfest/Pink Party event?

A Sheri: "We have been attending for six years; and each year it gets bigger and better."

Q What are your feelings about the progress modern medicine has made in the fight against breast cancer?

A Dr. Whiteman: "Cures in medicine are very difficult, but there have been tremendous advances in breast cancer treatment and we are able to improve and extend the quality of so many lives."

TOURNAMENT HOSTS

Tim and Chrystal Mansour - Owners, Collins Hill Athletic Club



Q Why did you choose to support Volleyfest?

A Chrystal: "We had a friend on our tennis team who was diagnosed with breast cancer. When we heard about Volleyfest, we wanted to join the fight by holding a fundraising tournament at Collins Hill Athletic Club."

Q What was your favorite part of the evening?

A Tim: "Providing the foundation with support and seeing the friendships and strength formed here."

Q Is this your first Volleyfest/Pink Party event?

A Tim: "This was our first year, and the energy throughout the evening was amazing!"

Q What are your feelings about the progress modern medicine has made in the fight against breast cancer?

A Chrystal: "I think modern science is definitely making detection easier for people. The mobile mammogram unit comes to our business twice per year to make it easy and convenient for men and women to get screened for breast cancer. I think it's programs such as the mobile unit that raise community awareness and help people create an opportunity for early detection."