

Culinary Celebration raises \$285,000 for CEF

By Christina Rowland  
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About 1,000 people gathered last Sunday night at the Hyatt Regency D/FW to support the Carroll Education Foundation in raising money for grants and scholarships, and of course to take in a smorgasbord of the area's cuisine offerings.

The Culinary Celebration boasted 31 chefs offering every type of food one could possibly imagine. It was a food lover's paradise. There was a fondue station, desserts from Copelands, chocolate from Rocky Mountain Chocolate Company, tostadas from Mi Chulas, brisket tacos from Timmaron Country Club and many other edible wonders from around the area.

"We raised about \$285,000 and were very pleased with that amount," said CEF Executive Director Kacy Hankins said.

The room was filled with parents, leaders in the community, school board members and the superintendent. It seemed that about everyone opened their stomachs and pocketbooks to support the CEF.

The live action had some items that drew in large sums for the foundation. The romantic trip for two to Tuscany complete with cooking classes fetched \$12,000.

"We had a couple of standout items; the trip to Tuscany," Hankins said. "And the dog went for \$4,000."

Overall, the event raised a few thousand dollars less than last year, but organizers were still pleased with the funds raised. According to Hankins, there was \$30,000 more in sponsorship this year than last.

"We prepared ourselves going into this and we did better than we expected," Hankins said. "We had a lot of good surprises this year."

One of the surprises was the amount of money that the silent action raised. The silent action had some smaller items donated from local businesses that ranged from everything from clothes to rounds of golf at local courses, to footballs autographed by 2007 Dallas Cowboys football team.

"I think this year people were more willing to bid on smaller items," Hankins said. "We made \$10,000 more on the silent action this year than last."

According to Hankins, Gina Parks was the action coordinator and she did a great job getting all the items donated.

The most important thing that Hankins wants people to know about this event and remember for next year is that this event supports schools district wide. They plan on giving 10 scholarships to seniors this year, but the education grants go to teachers across the district.

These grants will be able to help every student have a better hands-on and more enriched learning experience.

The Prize Parade to hand out the grants for teachers is set for Oct. 24.