

Mardi Gras party helps support Foundation programs

By Jennifer DiDomenico

The Celebration Foundation got into the spirit of the season, as it hosted its fourth annual Mardi Gras fundraiser on February 27 at the Reunion Resort.

The event raised funds to benefit the many developing programs and initiatives created by the Foundation, including Thriving in Place.

The fun-filled evening began with a silent auction, which ran throughout the night. Items included artwork, handmade baskets and more. A live auction followed dinner, including donated gifts such as a Louis Vuitton limited edition bag and weekend getaway packages.

Paul Kinser, Thriving in Place Advisory Council Co-Chair, gave a special presentation about the initiative – a program that allows seniors in Celebration to age in the comfort of their own homes, while giving them the additional opportunity to participate in local activities.

“Thriving in Place creates a purpose for people, extending quality of life,” said Kinser. “We try to do that through social engagement,

intellectual engagement, and by giving Thriving members the tools they need to succeed.”

Thriving in Place member Marion Northrup joined Kinser on stage, to speak about what the initiative means to her.



“Everything is being done extremely carefully, with background checks on who may be driving you or coming into your home,” said Northrup, regarding the initiative's volunteers and operations. “And with events like the Tony Bennett concert, Lifelong Learning and Thai Chi classes, what more can you ask for? It's an enhancement for the town!”

Desserts and dancing topped off the evening.

The Celebration Foundation would like to especially thank Celebration Health, as well as its fellow sponsors: Valencia College, The School District of Osceola County, Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA), Equitable Title of Celebration, ISSA Homes and Lowe's. With the help of these companies, as well individual sponsors and other attendees, the Foundation netted close to \$60,000.