



Monday, April 27, 2009

Inaugural Janus fundraising breakfast a success

By Steven Furlow
Staff Writer

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The inaugural Janus Developmental Services fundraising breakfast was a successful venture bringing in just under \$15,000 at the April 17 event at The Fountains in Carmel.

Soliciting donations from the more than 130 gathered, Janus was able to raise \$14,880 - an amount that exceeded expectations.

"We're so pleased with the turnout and the generosity," Janus Developmental Services President/CEO Connie Sanders said at the event. "We couldn't exist without support at this level."

During her remarks, Sanders spoke of the mission of Janus to provide a brighter future for those with developmental disabilities.

"Imagine a community where everyone has a chance for success," she said.

Located at 1555 Westfield Road in Noblesville, Janus works to provide individuals opportunities to participated and contribute in the community they live in. With services dealing with all ages and skill levels one goal of the service is to offer employment, educational and independent living skill opportunities. Sanders pointed out over a five year time period 94 percent of those from Janus placed in outside employment were still working at the same place.

"It's not enough to survive, we want them to thrive," she said of Janus' clients.

Helping illuminate the positives Janus has had on individuals, families and the community several clients have helped by the services Janus provides spoke of the impact it has had on their lives. Two young men, Terry Dunn and Dustin Worthman performed "Amazing Grace" vocally and on piano to a standing ovation while Megan Varnau spoke of her impact as a "taxpayer just like you" within the community.



The Times photo by Steven Furlow
A fundraiser for Janus Developmental Services at The Fountains in Carmel raised nearly \$15,000 for the organization.

Others from within the Janus organization spoke of the rewarding experience they get from serving those in the programs and family members shared how Janus programs had improved their and loved one's lives.

"We want to do the right thing," Janus Board Secretary John Schuler told the audience.

In 2008, Janus served 1,053 families from counties including Hamilton, Tipton, Madison, Hancock, Marion and Boone. The program had 81 individuals employed in various businesses in the community and provided a venue and workforce team of 64 for 25 different businesses.

Additionally, Janus has two Capabilities Café locations at Janus and the Hamilton County Judicial Center in Noblesville providing work opportunities for clients and through their 22-fleet transportation service, Janus and Hamilton County Express traveled 403,000 miles providing 40,158 rides.

For more information on Janus, visit www.janus-inc.org.

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