

Garfield's Wine & Whiskers fundraising gala a success

by Ann Bedford

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) hosted its fourth annual lifesaving Wine & Whiskers community benefit to raise awareness for their mission to save the lives of thousands of abused, neglected homeless (community) cats and kittens in the Northern Neck. It was a phenomenal success!

Held Thursday, September 4, at the Trinity Episcopal Church Pavilion in Lancaster, the ticket sales were very close to a sellout. The attendees, in support of Garfield's lifesaving mission, enjoyed music by Paragon DJs, passed hors d'oeuvres by D. Goodman Catering, specially curated wines, and perusing and bidding on amazing auction items.

Twenty-seven local sponsors supported the community benefit to promote Garfield's mission. Their support helps make the Northern Neck communities healthier, safer places



Garfield's Rescue Inc. president Karen Peterson welcomes guests to the Wine & whiskers gala. Photo by Chris Maxwell

to live, work and raise a family.

A huge thank you goes to the 93 local retail businesses, theater groups and artisans that donated amazing items for the benefit's silent auction segment. Items ranged from a two-hour

sunset sail on the Rappahannock River to an in-home chef prepared dinner for six.

GRI president Karen Peterson led a fast paced "Fund A Need" segment that raised urgently needed funds for 69 of their 140 currently fostered kittens, now age and weight appropriate, for lifesaving spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations to prevent life threatening disease. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to raise a paddle and pledge to make a lifesaving gift to support the high costs of this full vetting. At a cost of \$286/kitten, for the 69 kittens alone it takes \$19,734 to make them "purr-fectly" adoptable.

Two lucky supporters were excited to win retailer donated door prizes. One lucky supporter won \$330 in the 50/50 Raffle.

GRI is so grateful to the sponsors that support its lifesaving Wine & Whiskers community benefit; to the retailers, theater

groups and artisans that donate their many amazing products; and, to the 15 dedicated volunteers that support this annual, lifesaving community benefit with their hard work.

You all have given the most precious gift of all, the gift of life to one of your region's most vulnerable populations. Your generous lifesaving gifts provide these abused,

neglected felines—once loved but abandoned without reason—a second chance at life.

Ann Bedford serves as vice president of Garfield's Rescue Inc.

