

The 57th Annual *Greater Charlotte Heart Ball*

presented by Novant Health Heart & Vascular Institute



Matthew Paul Brown with Colby Groom and his parents, Lisa and Daryl Groom. Colby red wine was made in his honor to support heart research.

It was a night taken from the pages of a storybook, complete with medieval characters, nymphs and sprites in an enchanted forest. However, the message of this year's 57th Annual Greater Charlotte Heart Ball wasn't based on a fairytale. Once upon a time heart disease and stroke weren't as prevalent as they are today. Regrettably, cardiovascular disease has become the number one killer in our society, affecting one in three Americans. This is fact...not fiction. Fortunately, more than 90 years of research and technology funded by the American Heart Association, have allowed many survivors to live happily ever after.

The Greater Charlotte Heart Ball celebrates heart and stroke survivors and remembers those we've lost. This year's Ball captured the heartwarming stories of a young 7 year old boy who was born with a congenital heart defect but through surgery and an implanted defibrillator is now thriving. The second

generation of heart patients.

Every year, the Charlotte Heart Ball gets larger and more amazing. As an Auction Committee Vice Chair, I've seen the donations, sponsorships and attendance grow to new heights, thanks to a very generous community. The 2015 Charlotte Heart Ball presented by

heart survivor also suffered from a CHD and endured two back-to-back open heart surgeries, but Colby Groom celebrated his 17th birthday in Charlotte in order to share his newly found passion and mission of making Colby Red wine with his father and donat-

ed and collected by this team to make it truly one-of-a-kind for the bidders and unforgettable for the winners. From training with Navy SEALs to spending a week at a private Jamaican estate, each auction package offered something unique, extraordinary and well worth the winning bidder's donation to the American Heart Association.

The Greater Charlotte Heart Ball is like no other event in our community. From the minute you arrived and were greeted by knights in shining armor until the time you walked off the dance floor, everything was perfectly choreographed for the guests. This year's Welcome was sponsored by Wells Fargo, the Live and Silent Auction presented by CBRE and the Finishing Touch was donated by Harris Teeter and included a sneak peek of next year's theme to tease you as you were leaving. We would like to thank all

The 2015 Greater Charlotte Heart Ball raised over \$1 million net for the third consecutive year.

Novant Health Heart & Vascular Institute had 1,160 guests, making it the largest to date, and raised over \$1 million net, for the third consecutive year.

Selfishly, and on behalf of an incredibly dedicated and hard-working auction committee, I want to also mention that the Live Auction raised more than \$100,000 for the first time ever. This was in part, but not limited to the amazing experiences and items

of the sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this night possible.

This story continues to unfold and while we've made an incredible impact, the American Heart Association won't stop until there's a world free of heart disease and stroke. Now, that would be a happy ending. *