

# GOAL Magazine's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GALA



GOAL Magazine hosted its first annual Black-Tie Charity Gala on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Greensburg Country Club. Despite the inaugural event competing for attendance with other well-known local events such as Fort Ligonier Days, 130 guests and 10 volunteers crossed the red carpet dressed to the nines to party the night away at the GOAL Magazine Gala. Guests entered the ballroom adorned with a classy display of black floor length linens, white napkins, black chairs with white sashes and red rose centerpieces made by the GOAL team. The \$100 ticket included a champagne reception, red carpet photos by DeIDuca Photography, four-hour top shelf open bar, tapas style food stations including a pasta station, carved flank steak, shrimp scampi and more. DJ Michael Ferguson spun some amazing dance tunes while guests were entertained by Belly Dancers, a Photo Booth and play-time at Casino Tables such as Black Jack, Craps and Roulette.

While the evening had no set program nor an agenda that was driven toward encouraging donations to charities, under the guise of fun-filled festivities, the event successfully raised funds for two charity organizations. One of the charitable organizations, **Canine Partners for Life**, brought staff, volunteers and puppies for the Meet and Greet portion of the evening during guest arrival. CPL is an organization dedicated to training service dogs and home and residential companion dogs that assist individuals who have a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities. Inmates and staff from the State Correctional Institution in Somerset, Pa work together to raise newborn puppies from 8 weeks to 15 months old before being placed with someone in need. The total cost to raise, train, place, and provide lifetime support for each dog is estimated to be more than \$30,000 per dog. To date, Canine Partners for Life has placed over 650 service and companion dogs in 45 states. Learn more at [www.k94life.org](http://www.k94life.org). All net proceeds from the event registration, sponsorships, additional donations and program advertising enabled GOAL Magazine to present Canine Partners for Life with an \$1800 donation after the Gala.

The other charitable organization supported by the event, **The Animal Friends of Westmoreland**, brought volunteers who ran the activity ticket sales throughout the evening. Thanks to all of the fun had by the Gala guests, Animal Friends received \$4,765 from the net proceeds of gaming, the 50/50 and Chinese auction items. The Animal Friends of Westmoreland was created in 2006 by Candy Valentino Nelson. The organization received its 501c3 status in 2008 and after almost 2 years of renovations to the donated building by local volunteers, contractors, tradesmen, schools and businesses, they opened their doors to the public in November 2009. To date, the organization has rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed over 2,500 animals. All the lifesaving work is accomplished through the dedication of only three paid staff members and an army of over 200 active volunteers who have contributed over 20,000-man hours. The Animal Friends of Westmoreland rescue animals and save lives all the while providing love and joy to the humans who open their hearts to these animals and those who serve as care givers within our organization. Learn more at [www.animalfriendswestmoreland.org](http://www.animalfriendswestmoreland.org)

A special thank you to our Lead Sponsor **SecondHalf Coach Wealth Management** for organizing and funding a large portion of the event. A huge thank you to our additional event sponsors: **Kisiel & Associates, PC; Fotorecord Print Center; Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce; School House Bakery; Westmoreland Chiropractic & Rehab Associates; Nelson Loguasto's Cigars** and **Schaffer's Landscaping**. Each of these businesses helped to make this event a huge success! An expression of deep gratitude is also in order for the almost 40 businesses whose donations lined the ballroom walls in the forms of immaculate baskets for the Gala's Auction display.

The first annual Gala was such a success that the magazine staff is eagerly looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala set to be held on Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at Greensburg Country Club. Be sure to Save the Date!



**GOAL Magazine presented Candy Nelson, Founder of Animal Friends Westmoreland with a check for \$4,765. (L to R Tony Slezak, Bill Urbanik, Candy Nelson, Tawnya Rockwell, Jessica Marazza and Jessica Urbanik**



**Jerry Ferarro won the Grand Prize of the evening...  
2 Pittsburgh Penguin Tickets and an authentic  
autographed Maatta jersey**



**Just a small portion of the 40+ Auction items**



**Anna and Dan Sterrett along with Caleb and Melissa Crousey enjoying the evening**



**Jenna Hasson and Aldo Pomposini having fun at the Craps Table**



**Dr. Fred and Debbi Hamaty were Red Carpet Ready**



**Lead Sponsor SecondHalf Coach Wealth Management Team on the Red Carpet (L to R Jessica Marazza, Tony Slezak, Bree Ederly, Amanda Mayger, Jessica Urbanik, Bill Urbanik and Tawnya Rockwell)**

**All Photography Captured By:**

**DEL DUCA**  
*photography*