



WESLEY HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER HOSTS ITS 3RD ANNUAL TABLESCAPES EVENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knoxville, Tennessee (May 11, 2009) – Wesley House Community Center's ("Wesley House") 3rd Annual Tablescapes event was held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Cokesbury United Methodist Center, raising over \$10,000 to support its Summer Time Enrichment Program, known as STEP.

Over 200 ladies (and a few gentlemen) participated in this year's event. Groups of eight people sponsored a total of 26 tables and decorated them in various themes, some of which were quite elaborate. This year, some of the tablescapes included, "Here Comes the Bride," "Happy Birthday," "Princesses," "Mother's Day," and "Fourth of July Picnic." The guests were served a great meal and were delighted by dance, piano, and violin performances by several talented and very animated Wesley House children. Bidding was intense over nearly 75 silent auction items, including weekend lake and mountain cabin retreats, spa services, gourmet dinners, jewelry, artwork, sports memorabilia, and gift baskets.

The STEP program serves 65 school-age children during the summer months. The children are served breakfast and lunch daily, receive academic instruction, and participate in field trips, arts and crafts, athletic events, outdoor activities, and service projects.

Richard Gibson, Executive Director of Wesley House, was delighted with the event, noting, "Our 3rd Annual Tablescapes event was the best so far, with more participants and money raised than ever before. Everyone who came had a great time! We are most appreciative of our generous sponsors, especially Mercy Health Partners, our Signature Sponsor. The funds raised will go directly to support the STEP program, which not only provides a safe and secure environment for our kids while their parents are at work but offers them an array of educational and fun activities as well."

Wesley House has three annual fundraisers – a golf tournament (held in April), Tablescapes, and its Friends and Donors Breakfast (to be held on August 21, 2009 at Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church).

About Wesley House

Wesley House is the second oldest charity in Knoxville. Founded in 1907 by the Methodist Women, the center operated a childcare center for mothers who worked at Brookside Mills. In the 1940s, Wesley House became a National Mission of the United Methodist Church to minister to families in impoverished areas. Today, Wesley House conducts tutoring sessions, operates a learning center, provides a summer enrichment program, and offers a series of performing arts and cultural activities for at-risk youth in grades 1-8. Wesley House also offers an ongoing educational and social program for senior citizens, focusing on both physical and mental well-being. Wesley House primarily serves the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, and Beaumont neighborhoods.

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