



A Fantastic Feast of Fools Helps Neighbor in Need

The Feast of Fools, held Saturday evening, Feb. 13, was a great experience for the 150+ people who came out to enjoy some family-focused Mardi Gras themed fun and to support our neighbor, a young woman named Zuleica Arano. All told, we raised nearly \$7,000.

It has been nearly 18 months since Zuleica underwent a lifesaving kidney transplant (September 2008). Our congregation partnered with Church of the Holy Spirit in Schaumburg to help raise the money for this surgery, because Zuleica has no medical insurance. We have also committed as a congregation to continue to pray for her and raise funds for her medications, which cost more than \$2,000 per month. Zuleica is feeling much healthier and has more energy now, and she hopes to go back to school to get her GED. She is extremely grateful for our continuing support.

The Feast of Fools began with a “light” soup supper, which really did turn into a “feast,” because more than 30 people contributed enough soup, bread, and desserts to feed a small army! During the supper, attendees made bids on the wonderful handcrafted and other items up for silent auction, and purchased other craft items for sale separately. Items included a handmade wooden jewelry box, beautiful quilt, quilted table cloth, quilted wall hangings, decorative painted chairs, lovely paintings, ceramics, various decorative and gift items, gift certificates to a local nursery and for voice lessons, and more.

The music show featured many great acts, including Steve Ricci and his brother Ken, the Chamber Choir from West Chicago Community High School, Living Lord’s Praise Singers choir, Alexa Molidor, Natalie Smith, and Erik Steinbrenner’s band, Ricochet. The emcee for the show was Mike Smith, who pulled off a hilarious ongoing routine featuring his fictional twin brother, “Mark,” who

was “broadcast live, via satellite,” from New Orleans. Ask Mike to explain that to you! Movie clips from Mardi Gras themed Disney movies were masterfully interspersed among the acts to keep the crowd further entertained.

Pastor Jean was overwhelmed at the number of people who lent a hand to pull it all together. “Without everyone working together, it never would have happened,” she said. “It was a reminder to me of God’s hand in this effort.”

The Feast of Fools was the idea of Anna Durán, who served as the overall coordinator for the event. Bre Jurs and Amy Momsen were instrumental in handling every detail involved with the silent auction. All three of these young women spent countless hours planning and organizing this event to help our neighbor in need. Congratulations on a job well done, gals, and thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Many thanks are in order for everyone who worked so hard to make the evening a success:

- ☆ The wonderful kitchen and cleanup crew
- ☆ Those who donated all the food
- ☆ Those who made and donated the variously beautiful, whimsical, fun, practical, and lovely crafted items
- ☆ The talented performers
- ☆ The sound and technical crew
- ☆ Everyone who purchased or bid on an item
- ☆ All who made generous donations before, during, and after the show

Special thanks also to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the country’s largest fraternal benefit society, which provided \$3,500 in complementary funds, dollar for dollar, making our total \$7,000.