

Service Spotlight: FSU PIG Wine and Cheese Fundraiser to Benefit Dreams Come True

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Every year on a breezy Saturday afternoon in October you'll find the faculty and medical students from the Florida State University College of Medicine sitting on the front porch of Chez Pierre, sipping wine and nibbling on artichoke dip. Jazz music plays in the background as raffle ticket numbers are called out every fifteen minutes for great gifts like salon packages, diamond and pearl jewelry, and gym memberships. It sounds pretty amazing right? Actually the most amazing part is the guest of honor each year.

This year it was Trenton, a seven year old boy with a sinus tumor, who dreamed to go on a Disney cruise. He came with his parents and younger sister Chloe to enjoy an afternoon on the deck and help call out raffle ticket numbers. Thanks to the fourth annual Wine and Cheese Fundraiser to benefit the Dreams Come True Organization he will get to cruise the open seas this spring on Disney cruiselines. Brittany Jackson, current president of the Florida State University College of Medicine Pediatric Interest Group, said the event was a great success. "We had lots of attendees and wine thanks to a donation by the Office of the Dean. We had appetizers from Chez Pierre and auctioned prizes every 15 minutes." Since it is only the fourth year this event has taken place, support and attendance continues to grow exponentially each year with nearly fifty people present this year and many others who donated.

Chez Pierre is an upscale authentic French bar and bistro in Tallahassee, Florida who has graciously committed to help fundraise with the Florida State College of Medicine for Dreams Come True each year. The strong community support is also evident in the wide array of raffle prizes given away each year ranging from \$20 to \$500 in value. In addition to those items listed above students and faculty also won free massages, dance studio lessons, many restaurant gift certificates

and movies passes, along with many other similar prizes. Admission for students was \$10, faculty \$20, and guest tickets \$20 each. This admission ticket is good for unlimited appetizers and unlimited wine. The price of admission included one raffle ticket but additional tickets could be purchased before and during the event.

Drum roll please? The grand total fundraised this year was \$795 (net profit) ensuring a wonderful cruise for Trenton and his family. Dreams Come True was also able to subsidize the cost of additional cruise tickets for Trenton's extended family so they could participate in his dream also. Congratulations to his family and the dedicated Pediatric Interest Group executive board at the Florida State University College of Medicine: Brittany Jackson (President), Emile Barreau (Vice President), Labake Bankole (Treasurer), Roxanne Samuels (Secretary), Rachel Russell (Exec at large), Holly Klopfenstein (Service Chair), and Taylor Smith (Medical Student Council Representative).

The event is consistently a great success and very popular among students and faculty, winning the "Best Student Organization Fundraiser of the Year" award at the annual College of Medicine Gala last year and "Best Student Organization of the Year" award two years ago. Students clearly enjoy the fundraiser itself but also getting to meet the child they are fundraising for and their family. "It is nice to know that the students and faculty recognize our hard work and believe in and support or desire to make a difference in a child's life," said Brittany Jackson. Michelle Harper, a current third year medical student from Florida State and former president of the Pediatric Interest Group, said "I'm so glad to see the tradition of this event building each year as more students and faculty attend and more children's dreams come true. It really is a wonderful event and I would highly encourage other pediatric interest groups to consider something similar for their philanthropic event."

