

Naval Hospital Bremerton's 'Got Talent' Funds Reading Program

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Maebel Tinoko,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Northwest

SILVERDALE, Wash -- More than 300 people gathered at Naval Base Kitsap's (NBK) Bangor Plaza Trident Ballroom for Naval Hospital Bremerton's (NHB) "Got Talent" show, May 2.

The Puget Sound Oakleaf Club hosted this year's event and the funds raised from the talent show goes toward the launching of a reading program called Reach Out and Read (ROR).

ROR is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud in pediatric exam rooms across the nation.

"This year's event was an overwhelming success and I would like to thank the community's involvement for their support," said Kris Brouker, event coordinator. "I think this program will benefit many children with their intellectual and emotional development. This is a very unique program and the hospital will be another source besides school to promote reading."

During the talent show, a silent auction was held for baskets full of goodies. Several baskets were donated by local group organizations and 100% of the funds will go toward the program.

"This talent show wasn't a contest, it was about sharing our talents for a good cause," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Matt Hefner. "There are so many technologies out there and children tend to forget about reading. This program will promote a positive hobby for children and their families."

Throughout the evening, more than 25 acts with over 50 performers showed off their exceptional talents such as dancing, singing and playing a variety of different musical instruments.

No acts were judged. There was no overall winner in the talent show, except all the children who will ultimately benefit from the program.

"Reading is important for children to learn and grow at a young age," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class (FMF/SW) Kyle Mallard. "This event is a great way for people to get together for charity and it boosts morale."

At the end of the event more than \$2,500 was raised for the new ROR program. For more information visit www.reachoutandread.org.

For more news from Naval Base Kitsap, visit www.navy.mil/local/kitsap/.

Rehearsed and Ready for NHB's Got Talent show

By Douglas H Stutz, NHB PAO -- From classical to contemporary.
From Bach to Rock.

The inaugural NHB's Got Talent show slated for May 2 will showcase a wide variety of gifted musicians, able amateurs and skilled artists. What started as a modest in-house fund raising event to benefit the start up of Naval Hospital Bremerton's Reach Out & Read program is decidedly low key no more. The show, organized by the Puget Sound Oakleaf Club, has morphed into becoming the opening festive affair for the upcoming Bremerton Chamber of Commerce 61st Annual Armed Forces Festival.

"People will not be disappointed by attending, but if they don't show up, then they will be disappointed," stated Karen Iverson, Puget Sound Oakleaf Club organizer.

"We were initially overwhelmed, nervous and excited," said Kris Brouker, one of the Puget Sound Oakleaf Club organizers of the event, to be held at the Bangor Plaza Trident Ballroom at 6 pm on the first Saturday in May "We were also hesitant until we got all of the legalities ironed out. We've gotten great support from Naval Hospital Bremerton and Naval Base Kitsap Bangor."

Rehearsals have become more than just informal tryouts and ham-fisted auditions. Participants have been fine-tuning and honing their selected acts for the upcoming night.

"We have an opera tenor, a cello ensemble, and even a ukulele player. That's just a slice of the 25 acts we currently have," Brouker noted. "We're not professional talent scouts, but by just watching the assembled talent of staff and family members so far, they can compete with anyone. They are all enthused and true performers."

"It's like the field of dreams," added Iverson. "If you produce it, they will come. And there is a tremendous mix of staff and family, young and old, and all different kinds of talent. "

It was family members that garnered much of the attention at the most recent rehearsal. April and Alek Aquirre, daughter and son of NHB's Sheryl Aguirre, Patient Administration, sang the old Motown classic, "Just My Imagination." An infusion of classic rock was delivered with poise and punch by "Marilyn and the Overcast," a foursome rock band that impressively went from early Jimi Hendrix to a amped-up Bo Diddley classic back to a rendition of a Hendrix classic of an old Bob Dylan tune.

The recent rehearsal was also opportune time for such pending performers as Hospital Corpsmen Second Class Roderick Aquino on piano, HM3 Yinka Aluko on keyboards, HM3 Matthew Hefner on guitar, HN Dolley Pierre on vocals, and the group of HM1 Psyletea Gilroy, HM2 Moneke Burks, HM2 Lynley Bastien, and HM2 Andrea Lewis to practice their contemporary dance steps.

According to Joe McDaniels, Puget Sound Oakleaf organizer, the opening act of the night just might be the best. ‘We have Hospitalman Martina Jones doing a very special rendition of the National Anthem in traditional dress and in her native Navajo language,’ he said. ‘It’s spine-tingling.’”

The Reach Out & Read program promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud to their children. For ticket information, contact Karen at 360-550-4070; Kris at 360-204-5252/301-3839 or Amber at 360-692-7156.