

Children's Heart Fund Benefit Shows Who's Got Heart

Families of children with heart disorders give back

More than 250 guests showed their support for Mount Sinai's Division of Pediatric Cardiology by attending the second annual Children's Heart Fund Gallery Benefit at Nicole's restaurant, located in the Nicole Farhi boutique, on October 11. The event raised \$185,000 that will help finance a digital upgrade of a pediatric echocardiography laboratory.

Founded by parents of children with heart disorders, the Children's Heart Fund provides financial support for clinical research, therapeutic recreational programs, pediatric cardiology fellowship training, and technical advancement. Maura and Kevin Sheridan chaired the benefit to honor the extraordinary care provided by Mount Sinai—something the Sheridans experienced firsthand nine years ago when their then-infant daughter, Grace, was initially diagnosed with cardiomyopathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, Burton P. Drayer, MD, President of The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Ira Parness, MD, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and Professor of Pediatrics, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their support. Dr. Parness spoke about the Division's top priority—to create a new digital echocardiography lab with the most advanced technology available. The digital lab conversion, part of Mount Sinai Heart's ongoing effort to upgrade its digital archiving technology for all of its imaging laboratories, will enhance the Division's ability to provide cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic treatment for pediatric heart patients and adults with congenital heart



Benefit Chair Maura Sheridan (left) and Ira Parness, MD (right)

disease. Last year's benefit, also chaired by the Sheridans, led to a renovation of the outpatient space and helped fund a senior pediatric non-invasive imaging fellowship.

This year's event transformed chic Nicole's restaurant into a gallery featuring the work of New York City photographer Andrew Prokos, who donated 50 percent of the evening's sales to the Children's Heart Fund. A jazz band played while guests sipped on heart-healthy pomegranate cocktails created for the benefit. A silent auction included certificates to fine restaurants, premier golf clubs, shopping, and New York City-themed activities.

Dr. Parness reminded supporters that their generosity made a significant difference in the lives of many patients. "Our patients' enormous gratitude for our work is palpable at an event like this," he said.