

COMMUNITY

‘Hats & Heels’ fundraiser benefits Meals on Wheels

By Benjamin Rothstein
Daily State News

WYOMING — Meals on Wheels Delaware, a nonprofit that raises both money and awareness for Meals on Wheels programs statewide, held its annual “Hats & Heels” fundraiser at the Wild Quail Golf & Country Club on Friday.

The agencies are tasked with delivering meals to disabled seniors who may not be able to cook for themselves, and, according to executive director Anne Love, there could be many reasons for this.

“You have to not be able to manage some basic tasks, to prepare a meal for yourself, to shop. Maybe you can’t stand (at) the stove long enough to cook a meal. Maybe you can’t remember to cook a meal,” she explained.

She went on to praise the many volunteers who deliver the sustenance.

“They really are the face, the heart, the minds of the program. And, you know, ... every single last one of them is there to make a difference in somebody’s life and connect with them, and it gives people the opportunity just to see how someone else is doing,” she added.

Plus, the deliverers get to know the recipients along their routes and can notice if something is wrong.

As for the meals themselves, they come from kitchens across the state. In greater Dover, they often originate from the Modern Maturity Center.

Ms. Love said events like Hats & Heels also couldn’t be put on without the help of volunteers and committees, who support Meals on Wheels Delaware’s paid staff of just five.

At Friday’s gathering, attendees danced to DJ music, while local and chain vendors gave samples of their food, wine and other products. The event also featured a silent auction and a contest for the best hat and the



Attending Friday’s “Hats & Heels” fundraiser for Meals on Wheels Delaware were, from left, Jim Perry, Dina Perry and Debbie Smith. See more photos with this story at BayToBayNews.com.

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Emcee Tiffani Amber with the best hat for women winner Maxine Lewis.

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best heels.

Ms. Love said her favorite part was the dress-up aspect and the low-pressure environment, perfect for mingling.

Meanwhile, Meals on Wheels’ yearly wine auction, which takes place in Wilmington every spring, is typically its biggest moneymaker.

The organization’s next event is “The Ultimate Tailgate” at The Grove at Delaware Park in Wilmington on Oct. 23 from 6-9 p.m.

The fundraising events join grants and direct mail campaigns, Ms. Love said, adding that diversifying the nonprofit’s revenue streams is important.

“You don’t want to rely on one thing that’s working right now, and it might not be working in two or three years,” she said.

To learn more, visit mealsonwheels-de.org.

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Emcee Tiffani Amber and best-dressed couple winners Tonda and Joe Parks.

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