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**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Wines Auction Raises \$1.2 Million, Exceeds Expectations**

-- Metropolitan Family Service, Boys & Girls Aid Society, and ¡Salud! Program Benefit  
from Oregon's Largest Charity Wine Event --

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – March 12, 2003 – Further solidifying its new ranking as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest charity wine auction in the country, the Classic Wines Auction bucked economic uncertainty and reports of dwindling philanthropy with giving and attendance that exceeded expectations.

More than \$1.2 million was raised at the March 8 event – a forty percent increase over last year. In addition to supporting local nonprofit Metropolitan Family Service, new beneficiaries this year include the Boys & Girls Aid Society, and Tuality Healthcare Foundation's ¡Salud! Program.

“The generosity of the local community – from auction attendees to local restaurants, winemakers and distributors – continues to amaze us. It’s especially important this year as the struggling economy takes its toll on more and more families, individuals and seniors,” said Classic Wines Auction Co-chair John E. von Schlegell. “This year marks another milestone as we expand our reach to include two additional beneficiaries: the Boys & Girls Aid Society, and the ¡Salud! program.”

A record 830 guests – including Governor Ted Kulongoski – from Oregon, Washington and California joined noted chefs and wine ambassadors for a five-course dinner, and silent and oral auctions at the Portland Marriott. The event wrapped up a three-day, sold-out food and wine celebration that also included Winemaker Dinners March 6 and Ambassadors Dinner March 7.

Chairmen for the 2003 events were von Schlegell, managing partner of Endeavour Capital, and Walden C. Rhines, chairman and CEO of Mentor Graphics. More than 200 business and community volunteers are involved in planning the three-day event line up, which starts a year in advance.

Honorary wine ambassadors this year included Oregon ambassador Ken Wright Cellars, Washington ambassador Dunham Cellars, California ambassador Silver Oak Cellars, and international ambassador Wilson Daniels Ltd. Scott Bryan of Veritas Restaurant in New York City served as this year’s visiting celebrity chef.

Led by San Francisco auctioneer David Reynolds, bidding was lively for more than 60 oral auction lots and more than 150 silent auction lots. Top selling lots included:

- A private party with The Kingsmen at the home of Rob & Linda Maletis - \$72,000
- A four-day Alaskan Inside Passage wine tasting cruise on the 105' Crystal Spirit yacht - \$70,000
- New Zealand trip for four with a stay at US Ambassador Swindells' residence, and private winery tours - \$32,000
- Dinner for 20 couples at Wildwood with VINI Award recipient Gary McLean - \$37,500
- A trip to Burgundy, France for four on American Airlines with private tours at DRC, Dujac, Leflaive and more - \$35,000
- Private plane, lodging, VIP tour and choice of six-liter bottles at Silver Oak Cellars - \$24,000

- Skiing with Warren Miller at the exclusive Yellowstone Club resort in Montana hosted by Ken & Karen Wright - \$19,000
- Three nine-liter bottles and a private jet getaway to Walla Walla, Washington hosted by Dunham Cellars - \$13,000

Two silent auctions and a wine tasting reception preceded the live auction.

In addition to VINI Award winner McLean, recognized for his enthusiasm and support of viticulture, Dick Erath was honored with the Oregon Vintner (ORVI) Award for his lifetime achievement in supporting the growth and prominence of the Oregon wine industry.

Since its inception almost 20 years ago, the auction has raised more than \$7 million for local nonprofit Metropolitan Family Service, which has served children, families, older adults and people with disabilities in the Portland area for more than 50 years, and now ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest charity wine auction in the U.S. according to *Wine Spectator* magazine. For more information, visit [www.metfamily.org](http://www.metfamily.org).

Wine lovers are encouraged to mark their calendars for the 2004 Classic Wines Auction, already set for March 6, 2004. For more information, call Judy Anderson, Classic Wines Auction Director, at 503.232.0007 ext 106.

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