

The AZ Insider: Auction Oops!

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"The AZ Insider" with Kathy Shayna Shocket: Get the inside scoop on Arizona's social scene and celebrity news.



This week: Auction oops? Some behind the scenes tails...

There are a couple of "you have to hear this" anecdotes from behind the scenes of the Crisis Nursery benefit of 400 partygoers. Or as our kids say and text – "OMG- Oh my God."

In addition to some of the committee's successfully innovative fundraising twists and how they were able in this economy to accumulate over 500 auction items and gift certificates – (and that's 100 more auction items than they had for last year's event)- -- in addition to that--- there's the "behind the scenes" story of how the pug in the live auction got its new home.

When committee members **Diana Lents** and **Heidi Ferraro**- were looking for a dog for the live auction they wanted a breed which would embrace the theme of the party -the Chinese New Year. So they found a local reputable pug breeder and bought a cuddly puppy.. one which would win over hundreds of guests at the party. Especially the ones who were seriously considering taking it home. Committee member **Tiffany Levas** outbid others when the bid got to \$7,500. BUT, in all the excitement, she thought the auctioneer was saying \$2,500 and didn't realize her mistake until she heard the "SOOO..O..LD for \$7,500." If you've been in the middle of the energetic flurry of bidding you know how that can happen.

The committee negotiated a lower price. Meanwhile, dinner guests **Jon** and **Karla Shank**, who had no idea of the auction oops, had been trying to get over their disappointed- "we had really wanted the dog," says **John** who set out to find **Tiffany** and convince her to let him buy the puppy. Fast forward to the conversation between **Jon** and **Tiffany** and low and behold... **Tiffany** had been wondering how she was going to explain the dog to her husband. So a happy ending for all. **Tiffany** donated \$500 for the dog and **John** and donated the \$2,000. And the puppy – they named **Valentina** – was a great Valentine's Day gift for their 3 children and the entire family. Below is a photo of the happy Shank family with **Valentina**.



Amidst the other auction items at the fete chaired by **Kathi Neal**, the ballroom at the Sheraton decorated in red –and kids and teen volunteers dressed in red kimono satin style dresses- was the Year of the Child wheel. For \$50 a spin, every guest who took a chance won something. There was a gift certificate to different restaurants, spas, etc. in EVERY envelope. "It was so popular that people were in line all night long," says **Celeste Dickman**, Vice Chair of the event. What a fun idea to raise some extra dollars.

Not to mention the Chinese change purses the committee bought and filled with gift certificates. For \$40 each, every change purse also held a gift certificate.

Within the win-win successful auction and gift certificates and the great networking job on the part of committee members including silent auction chair **Darlene Richert** and her committee is the net raised - \$400,000 with 400 guests. That's very very impressive.

Proceeds benefit the 30 year old Crisis Nursery – it's Children's Shelters which provides a safe haven and help for children and families threatened with child abuse, neglect or homelessness and Crisis Nursery's support programs.



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