

BARAGA BOOSTERS PREPARE FOR “A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER”

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CHEBOYGAN – There is plenty activity these days at Bishop Baraga Catholic School. Besides a new school year just getting under way, the Baraga Boosters are busy organizing their 10th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction. This year’s theme is “A Knight to Remember”. The big event is coming up Saturday, September 25 at the Cheboygan Knights of Columbus Hall, with a Preview Night schedule the night before, Friday, September 24.

“While the Gala has become known as ‘Cheboygan’s Social Event of the Year’, it also plays a very important role in the funding our school,” said Fr. Paul Megge, Pastor of the Cheboygan Catholic Community. “Once again, this event will raise a significant amount of money for the operation of our beloved Bishop Baraga Catholic School. Thanks to the wonderful support from our community for over 150 years, this school continues to be the place to grow.”

One of the highlights of the evening will be the Grand Raffle drawing. First prize is a new 2010 Toyota Corolla S donated by Fernelius Toyota-Chrysler-Dodge. There will also be two \$10,000 prize winners selected, along with ten additional \$1,000 cash prizes drawn the night of the Gala. Three \$1,000 early bird winners have already been announced: Dr. Loretta Leja of Aloha, James Skaggs of Cheboygan, and Stan Farrell of Grosse Isle.

Grand Raffle tickets are \$100 each or 3 for \$250, and are still available at Fernelius, Modern Pharmacy, Robert Armstrong DDS, Sign & Banner Factory, Bishop Baraga School and the parish office. People can also call (231) 625-9956. Ticket buyers need not be present to win.

What also makes this evening so unique is the food and the auction. Over a hundred items have been gathered for the live and silent auctions, while the gourmet meal is one of the highlights of the event.

Besides specialty hors d’oeuvres and appetizers, there is a champagne reception, valet parking and a complimentary professional portrait taken – all before dinner.

The main dinner menu is made up of five courses, including BBQ beef tenderloin roulade with grilled balsamic asparagus, wild rice and cranberry soup, baby spinach salad, stuffed game hen and dessert. Audie’s Restaurant and Black Mountain Lodge are working together to prepare the food this year.

Another big drawing card for the Gala each year is the band. Returning this year is the Mass Transit Band from the metro Detroit area. This seven piece all-purpose group is known as one of Motown’s best with some 30 years of entertainment experience. *(Photo attached)*

Dinner tickets are \$125 per person and are still available at the school office, parish office, Modern Pharmacy, or by calling (231) 627-5608. This ticket also includes free admission to the Preview Night on Friday, September 24.

“Many countless hours have been spent putting this wonderful event together,” said Kitty LaBlance, principal at Bishop Baraga. “Our board, along with dozens of families and volunteers, will magically transform the K-of-C Hall into a very special place. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of the crew that works so hard to make this happen.”

“The best news is that it’s not too late to be part of it,” said Rachael Hudson, Baraga Booster board member. “Tickets are still available. Talk to anyone who’s attended. I’m sure they’ll tell you how much fun they had.”

“This event is so important for our school, and our kids,” added Hudson. “Yes, it does raise much needed money. But, it also shows how much our parish treasures this school. So many people work so hard to make this happen. It also gives everyone in the community a chance to help support our efforts with donations and contributions. The fact that we get to throw such a fabulous party is the icing on the cake.”

More information on the Baraga Booster Gala can be found on the school’s website, www.bishopbaraga.com under the “In the News” tab.

Bishop Baraga Catholic School is located at 623 West Lincoln Avenue in Cheboygan and offers classes from pre-school through 6th grade. The school is part of the Cheboygan Catholic Community and the Diocese of Gaylord.