



Tiffany Foster, Allison Neuman and Elaine Arber



Wine, Women & Shoes



Katie Payne and Michelle Power



Jessica Dolan



Casey Marsh

Wines paired with shoes for UNICEF health benefit

By Kevin McKeough | Special to the Tribune

‘Sole men’ dressed entirely in black carried shoes on trays; tall fashion models stood even taller on 4-inch heels; a miniature boutique and silent auction tables displayed yet more shoes; and wine stations offered an array of cabernets, chardonnays and sauvignon blancs during the Wine, Women and Shoes benefit at the Museum of Contemporary Art Thursday evening.

Part fashion show, part wine fest, the \$85-per-person event raised funds for UNICEF’s Accelerated Child Survival Initiative, which aims to save the lives of 10 million children in developing countries by 2010 through health interventions such as vaccinations, vitamin distribution and treatment for diseases.

The initiative’s average cost per child is \$500, with \$155 coming from donations and the rest in matching contributions by the participating countries, according to Casey Marsh, the director of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF’s Midwest regional office, which hosted the event.

Wine, Women and Shoes drew a mostly female crowd of about 650 who thronged the museum’s lobby beneath black-and-white photos from the MCA’s current rock ‘n’ roll-themed exhibit. “I loved the opportunity to come out with my girlfriends and ogle shoes together,” said event co-chair Amy Brown, a mother of four girls who was joined by her husband, Rob, a partner in a mergers and acquisitions firm, their oldest daughter, Emma, and her mother, Kayde Roberson.

Brown’s co-chair, Joe Silich, confessed he wasn’t entirely sure about the right way to mix the benefit’s two elements. “The men were laughing when we got together: ‘Wines with shoes, anyone know the rules for that?’” said Silich, a senior vice president at Morgan Stanley.

Some women love shoes more than others. Kathleen Crotty made the win-

ning \$3,000 bid for 10 pairs of shoes at a live auction during the event. “First I was just doing it to get people to spend more money. Then I looked [at another bidder] and thought, ‘That girl can’t wear those shoes!’” explained Crotty, an advertising executive who works on, yes, a shoe store chain account.

The wine servers included Camille Julmy, the Swiss-born co-founder of U.S. Equities, an international real estate company based in Chicago, and a member of the executive board of for UNICEF Midwest. “I hope someday I can go spend a few months working in Africa,” said Julmy, who was in the middle of a stretch of eight plane flights in nine days. “Instead of the bus, I take the plane.”

UNICEF Midwest executive board co-chair Eileen Henderson and her husband, John, recently visited Madagascar on a UNICEF donor trip. They have traveled to see the organization’s work in Zambia, Vietnam and Burkina Faso. In addition to these travels, they divide their time between Chicago and John’s native Australia. “We have summers here and summers there,” said Eileen, the former chief financial officer of Akz-Nobel Inc.

Susan Brown and Martha Keller enjoyed the chance to sample wines from boutique vineyards that aren’t available in most stores. Inevitably, the event whetted their appetite for shoes too. “We’re probably going shopping this weekend,” Brown said.

Photos for the Tribune by Dianne Brogan



Anju Ahuja



Ortensia Napolitano



Kathleen Crotty and Sheila Willis



Elaine Honig



Susan Brown and Martha Keller



Mary Katherine Braigel, Mary Colleen Braigel, Mary Francis Braigel and Mary Claire Noteman