

Hope Grows Gala To Benefit Needy in Community

Oct. 3 bash features hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing and auctions.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Seeking a glamorous night out? Blessed with a caring heart for those not as fortunate?

Mount Vernon-area residents are invited to dress up and come dance and dine Friday evening, Oct. 3 at the Hope Grows Gala at Waterford in Springfield.

Attracting a compassionate crowd from throughout Northern Virginia, this annual fundraising dinner gala and auction benefits Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church which aids the impoverished and homeless along the Route 1 corridor.

Thanks to generous area churches and individuals, more than 350 soup kitchen breakfasts and lunches are provided each week; 900 individuals are supported by the

food pantry each week; 20,000 clothing assists are made each year.

Additionally, in winter the hypothermia shelter keeps the homeless from freezing, and throughout the year an emergency fund provides small grants to individuals and families in need.

Also, food packages are delivered to 55 sick and homebound families each week; there's tutoring and mentoring in resume writing, job search skills and adult literacy.

It costs \$1,500 each day to keep Rising Hope's doors open and serving the poor. To show support, purchase tickets at \$100 each at <http://www.risinghopeumc.org/>.

The fun starts at 7 p.m. with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, bidding at the silent auction and dancing to the live sounds of the Close2Home Band. Dinner, recognition of sponsors, auction and more dancing follows.



At Waynewood pool on Saturday, Sept. 6, in their picnic attire, the Close2Home band features Leah Matthews, Steve McPherson, Lynne White, Tom Bratten, Jay McConville, Brian Wernecke and Dwight Wernecke.

Hope
Grows
GALA

Save the Date!

OCTOBER 3RD, 7:00 PM

WATERFORD AT SPRINGFIELD

6715 COMMERCE STREET, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150

Tickets - \$100 per person
Ad and Sponsorship Information at
www.risinghopeumc.org or 703-360-1976



If you are unable to attend our Celebration
Donations are accepted at
Rising Hope, 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22309