

Passionate Pursuits ... A Celebration of International Women's Day!

Close to 400 guests of multiple cultures, backgrounds and faiths celebrated their love of life and ability to transform the world on March 11, 2006 during a fund-raiser sponsored by the 1008 Wells Foundation. The evening was highlighted with heart inspiring speakers, multi-cultural dance performances, acclaimed artists, sumptuous delicacies, festivities and fun celebrating the incredible accomplishments of women in our area. **Passionate Pursuits ... A Celebration of International Women's Day** was THE event for this Spring season.



Everywhere one looked there were women expressing their passion for life through painting, singing, designing, writing, dancing and supporting others. It was amazing to see what women can accomplish by putting their fear and doubts to the side and following their heart!





The air sizzled that evening with Indian, African, Middle Eastern, Philippine and Jazz music as graceful dancers flowed across the gilded stage. **Linda Callanan**, Founder of the Annai Center for Yoga, New York, unfolded *The Secrets of the Inner-Self Number* and **Brenda Miller**, Grace & Mercy Ministry, led everyone on *The Journey to Find Our Passion* with her inspirational message.



The global bazaar & marketplace with its 37 artists and vendors gave everyone a chance to enjoy a taste of a world where **diversity is not something to be tolerated but CELEBRATED!**



Hosted by 1008 Wells Foundation the purpose of the evening was to raise awareness and funding for freshwater wells in India. Founder, Jadeine Shives, and President, Madan Gurdial, shared the news that construction for 8

wells in the state of Bihar serving 400 people has been slated to start in a few months funded through donations received from the community.



Yet, the good news was only beginning. The completion of a large drinking water system already under way that will serve 5 villages with 25 tap stands for over 1000 people is only a few short months away. Coupled with the success story coming out of Sinji Gram Panchayat from the Foundations' first project, this will bring the number of individuals having a sustainable source of fresh drinking water funded by local community donations and support to 1,500 by the end of 2006.



The highlighted moment of the evening arrived at the presentation of *The Global Women's Humanitarian Award*. Twenty-three local woman ages 16 to 97, were honored for doing extraordinary things on a global basis.



Nathaly Hewawasam was presented the *Jr. Women's Global Humanitarian Award*. This Gateway High School student was recognized for her enthusiasm to raise \$4200 on her own for the Tsunami victims of Sri Lanka and starting the Kids-Aid Society to continue the great work. She continues to sponsor children in this still devastated region. **Barbara Verchot**, Founder of Wings of Peace, won the *Global Women's Humanitarian Award* for her work in Thailand including the distribution of blankets, encouragement of tribal women's handicraft co-ops, construction of schools and medical clinics. The *Lifetime Achievement Award* went to **Mary Elmendorf**, for her work in Mexico as the first female president of CARE and her numerous success stories in bringing freshwater to the marginalized communities of Mexico for over 50+ years.

