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# Melting Pot raises money for Mature Services of Akron

## Guests get a taste of jazz music and ethnic foods at seventh annual event

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Special to the Beacon Journal

Published: September 19, 2011 - 12:41 AM

Guests dined on delicious foods from around the world, and enjoyed good friends and fine jazz at the Melting Pot — A Taste of Many Nations on Thursday at Fairlawn Country Club.

Culinary professionals from area restaurants made their finest ethnic cuisine at the seventh annual event to raise money for Mature Services of Akron.

Madeline Bozzelli was the honorary chairwoman.

Chef Catherine Lewis and Linda Davis from Festive Food Catering brought in one of their favorite dishes, homemade lasagna.

"It's a recipe from a childhood friend's grandmother, who was from Sicily," Lewis said.

Chef Roger Thomas made Mediterranean Rice Salad with Caramel Poached Shrimp.

"I'm going to sample everything here since I come from a strong family of eaters," said Erika McClelland.

Bev DeSanzo, Elizabeth Shartle and Heidi and Mike Steranka helped check in the 225 guests.

"I like getting out and seeing people and just saying hello," guest Tess Flannery said.

First-time guest Jim Mazzagatti came out to support the cause.

Dr. Herb Croft and Jill Chipps enjoyed helping the organization and getting holiday shopping out of the way with the auction.

"Last year, I bid on a television set, and I always like the different items there are to chose from," said Barbara Banks.

Her friend Carrie Fanelly added, "Mature Services helps us so much with staffing and they reach out to a very worthwhile group in our community."

Entertainment was provided by the group That's Lew's Jazz.

The planning committee included Inese Alvarez, Nikole Dack, Larry Frank, Mary Ann Freedman, Kathleen Hovey, Tom Loraditch, Paul Magnus, Lisa Mandel, Susan McGuigan, Debbie McKinney, Kathleen Mc-Laughlin, Natalie Stemple, Harvey Sterns, Linda Valentine, Barbara Venesy and Richard Vernon.

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