

A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

An audience of 300 roared their approval of a Stonehill College senior and voted her the winner of "The Voices of Champions" competition at The Charity Guild's Harvest Gala at the Shaw's Center on Sept. 27. Bethany Conway sang the Whitney Houston song "I Have Nothing" to prevail over the nine other finalists. As the Harvest Gala switched this year from dancing to singing, Ayla Brown of "American Idol" fame appeared as a guest star.

The competition began in June with auditions for 45 singers, with 20 chosen for a preliminary round. As the winner, Ms. Conway, from Cumberland, RI, will have the chance to record in the Track Shack studio, sing the National Anthem at the Brockton Rox 2013 home opener and perform in the Guild's holiday concert (see next page).

The evening included a silent auction and a lively live auction – conducted by Bill Callahan – for items including Patriots tickets, heating oil from Niccoli Bros., and a stay at the White Elephant on Nantucket. Haidee Ennis spoke from a client's perspective, and Karl Brueggeman of Kilroy Bros. movers was honored for his service to the Guild. The event raised more than \$40,000 after expenses, for our food pantry.



Photographs by Diane Prince and Jay Lynch.
Ayla Brown brought her Nashville sound to Brockton.



Kelly Carney Kelly, Jeff Miller of Signature Healthcare and Nancy Gustafson, the event chairwoman.



Roy Andrade of Everett's Auto Parts with Paul Studenski, who performed as a member of The Council Chords.



Pat and Mark Lawton with Pat Dykeman, a member of the Charity Guild board.



The Council Chords, a group of Brockton City Councilors and friends, sang "Country Roads."



Laurene Frederick, a gala committee member, and her guest Doreen Meador.

"HOLIDAY ON BROADWAY"



Photograph by Jay Lynch.

After her Gala victory, Bethany Conway will return.

The Guild's 2012 Holiday Concert will be held at the Shaw's Center on November 30. As always, all proceeds will benefit The Charity Guild's food pantry. The show starts at 8PM, with dinner at 6:45PM and cocktails at 6PM. This year, the production will be Broadway-themed and feature selections from a number of popular shows, including "A Chorus Line," "Annie," "Funny Girl," "Hello Dolly," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Miss Saigon" and "White Christmas."

Starring in the production will be Lynne Albanese, Nancy Gustafson, Lia Macrina and Alan Thomas. The night will also feature Alexandra Albanese, Trinity Catholic Academy, "Voices of Champions" winner Bethany Conway and a surprise guest artist from the city of Brockton. Rebecca Desmond will accompany all the acts on piano and The Council Chords will be playing for the dinner hour.

Tickets are \$55 for dinner and the show or \$25 for the show only. Please RSVP by November 23. You can mail in a reservation form with a check to The Charity Guild. You can print out a form at <http://thecharityguild.org/events/holidayconcert.php>.

You may also reserve a seat and pay by credit card at that site. Or you can phone Jason at (508) 583-5280.

Making Deposits for The Guild

Crescent Credit Union ran a food drive over the summer that brought in items valued at \$670 for The Guild. The drive helped fill a gap at a time when many young clients are not getting free or reduced-price meals at school. Bins were placed at all eight branches, and Crescent employees and customers contributed food valued at \$250. The credit union made signs that were placed with collection bins at six business partners that together took in food valued at \$420. They were Makeovers Salon and Spa, Pelo the Day Spa, Punch Kettlebell Gym, the Children's Museum of Easton, Bernardi Honda/Hyundai and the Brockton Council on Aging. The guild thanks Jonah Wein and Emily Harriman of Crescent for their work on the drive.

Crescent contributed to the Guild in another way by underwriting Ayla Brown's appearance at the Harvest Gala.

Small Servings

Arlene Giannaros, an Easton resident recently retired from the alumni office of Stonehill College, has joined the Charity Guild board. She succeeds her late husband, Chris. ... The Guild installed a new slate of officers at the annual meeting in September. Diane Nadeau is the new president and chairperson. Marijo Martin became treasurer and Barbara Janelli assistant treasurer. Nancy Gustafson remains vice chairperson and Kate Feodoroff recording secretary. ... The Guild participated in its first online fund-raiser, the Giving Common Challenge of the Boston Foundation. We raised \$925 from 19 donors including residents of New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas. ... Ashley Aka, an employee of the Guild and a longtime volunteer, was awarded a nursing degree and an associate's degree in science in May from Brockton Hospital School of Nursing and Fisher College.

For more photos of the Harvest Gala, see <http://www.facebook.com/thecharityguild>.

BECOME A GUILD MEMBER FOR AS LITTLE AS \$20. VISIT <http://thecharityguild.org/support/membership.php>.