

ALSAC News



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Hafleh celebrates heritage, supports St. Jude

The 66th annual Holiday Hafleh, hosted by the Salaam Club of New York Dec. 8, raised more than \$190,000 for the children of St. Jude. The traditional gala, held at Water's Edge, celebrated the contributions of the Arab-American community on behalf of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the hospital's 50th anniversary.

"What a night," said Ralph Succar, president of the Salaam Club of New York and committee co-chair. "This event celebrated the roots and history of American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC), and we are so proud to have broken our fundraising record for a most wonderful and fitting cause. More importantly, it allowed our community to continue what they helped create when Danny Thomas committed to a vision of helping children all over the world afflicted with childhood cancer and other diseases."

Aleen Sirgany of ALSAC introduced St. Jude patient Christian and his parents, who shared the story of Christian's four-year battle with anaplastic ependymoma, a form of brain cancer, and how he has thrived under the care he receives at St. Jude. The evening honored Wayne T. Muratore with the Lifetime Achievement Award; Mona Aboelnaga Kanaan as Woman of the Year; and Laith M. Jazrawi, MD, with the Community Service Award. In addition to music by Yousef Shamoun and his band, guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, a three-

course gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions and a special giveaway.

Live auction highlights included a private tour of the nation's capitol with congressman Michael Grimm, dinner and wine pairing with Chef Philippe Massoud of Ilii Restaurant, museum quality portrait sessions by Bradford Portraits, and one-week accommodations anywhere in the world, courtesy of MSI Net, Inc. Longtime St. Jude friend and supporter John D'Agostino served as auctioneer, and followed up by leading a successful Give to Live portion of the event, which together raised more than \$35,000.



(From left) Holiday Hafleh committee co-chairs John Abi-Habib, George Jalinis, Joseph Elhilow, Ralph Succar, Tony Msallem, Wayne Muratore, Emil Baccash and Gregory Lutley join ALSAC representative Karla Micalizzi (center).