

TENNYSON CENTER GALA BENEFIT RAISES NEARLY HALF MILLION FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN

"Behind the Mask", the theme for the 29th Annual Denver Dinner benefiting Tennyson Center for Children, proved to be especially appropriate as it communicates the facade so often worn by children surviving the pain from abuse as they hide the anguish which fills their young lives. In celebration of the wonderful healing that takes place once the mask is removed, the mask theme was evident throughout the evening's festivities at the Colorado Convention Center on Friday, October 27.

The Korbel Ballroom was the perfect backdrop for this event, which raised over \$470,000. The pre-dinner cocktail reception, featuring complimentary Skyy Vodka martinis, allowed 825 guests the opportunity to mix and mingle in a chic black-tie atmosphere. Once inside the ballroom, the event took on its own unique approach to fundraising through an appeal format. The tables were set with "dueling prawns," the lights were warming and there were masks projected on the walls to remind attendees of the theme throughout the evening.

With Gary Shapiro serving as emcee for the evening, the program began with a group of Tennyson Center children in a mime performance to *Don't Laugh at Me*. When CEO Bob Cooper took the stage, he delivered some startling statistics and a passionate thanks to everyone who attended. Colleen Stanley, President of SalesLeadership motivated the crowd with a remarkable keynote address after which Matt Baldner, President of Steele Street Bank and Tennyson Center Board Chair, closed the evening with an incredibly successful appeal for support. The evening was filled with joy and a giving spirit for a truly worthy cause.

Tennyson Center for Children is a community of people dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect, serving and strengthening children and families. As professionals and concerned citizens, they strive to provide competent and caring treatment, including educational and advocacy services that are community-based, family-focused and child-centered. For more information visit www.childabuse.org