

# Highland Park Community Foundation Celebrates its Gather for Good Event

By Gayle Seminara Mandel



*Betsy Brint - co-chair Gather for Good, Alyssa Knobel - Jack Blane Award Recipient, Nancy Mills - Chairman*



*Chef Don Gagliano of Viaggio*



*Gather for Good Sponsor First Bank of Highland Park, VP, Magdalena Wrobel with Eric Montes*

The Highland Park Community Foundation's Gather for Good Benefit was a huge success. Approximately 300 attendees enjoyed the festivities.

Residents, area business owners, civic leaders, and other HPCF supporters came together for an evening filled with cooking demonstrations, delicious bites, and sips featuring local chefs, and a surprise box raffle. Celebrity radio show host Melissa Forman of WLIT-FM 93.9 was the emcee for the event. Highland Park Councilman, Alyssa Knobel received the 2018 Jack Blane Community Service Award. Proceeds from the event and raffle will support the HPCF to help address the unmet needs of friends and neighbors in Highland Park and Highwood. The Gather for Good Event was co-chaired by Betsy Brint and Robyn Schuster.

"We understand and care deeply about the needs of our neighbors. The HPCF Board and staff work to ensure a vibrant and inclusive community where every person has the opportunity to succeed," stated Nancy Mills, Chairman of the HPCF Board of Directors. She continued, "The HPCF serves as a dependable resource to address the most pressing issues facing nonprofits that operate locally through partnerships and funding."

Executive Director Terri Olian stated, "The HPCF is pleased to present the Gather for Good event and greatly appreciates the outpouring of support from sponsors and donors. With \$183,000 granted to 35 organizations in 2017, the HPCF distributed more grant dollars than ever before to worthy organizations providing social services, education programs, and cultural arts enrichment. We look forward to increasing

our funding and reach to address more needs in 2018 and in perpetuity."

The annual Jack Blane Community Service Award was presented to Councilman Alyssa Knobel for her dedication to the Highland Park/Highwood community, and beyond, through consistent and active participation on numerous civic and charitable organizations. Established in 2014, the award honors Jack Blane and his exemplary work within the community.

Delicious bites and cooking demonstrations provided by: Scott Becker (Binny's Demonstration Kitchen), Bluegrass, Carol's Cookies, Donna Goodman Events, Found Kitchen & The Barn, La Casa de Isaac & Moishe, Long Grove Confectionery Co., Nothing Bundt Cakes, Panera Bread, Real Urban Barbecue, Ruth's Chris Steak House, and Viaggio Highland Park.



*Event wide shot*



*Robyn Schuster - co-chair, Terri Olian - HPCF Exec Dir, Betsy Brint - co-chair, Alyssa Knobel - HP Councilman, Nancy Mills - HPCF Chairman*



*HP Mayor Nancy Rotering, HP Councilman Ayssa Knobel, HPCF Executive Director Terri Olian*



*IL Senator Julie Morrison with HPCF Board Member and cochair of event and Ghida Neukirch, City Mgr Highland Park*



*Linda Stewart and HPCF Board Member, Don Stewart*

Event sponsors included: @properties, Autohaus on Edens, Binny's Beverage Depot, Betsy & David Brint, Elevate Creative Group, First Bank of Highland Park, Bonnie & Peter Flanzer, Guy Scopelliti Landscape, Inc., Sally Higginson, Highland Park Bank & Trust, Holland & Knight, Cookie & Henry Kohn, Kovitz Investment Group, Monette & Craig Leva, Lodestar Investment Counsel, LLC, Long Grove Confectionery Co., Nancy & Andy Mills, Modestus Bauer Foundation, Porsche Exchange, Karen & Rich Reisin, RMB Capital, Ronnie & Alan Schwartz, Sunset Foods, The Jacobs Companies, LLC, Tucker Development, and Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., Highland Park.

The Highland Park Community Foundation was established in 1992 at the request of the City of Highland Park to provide a safety net for agencies and organizations that provide programs and services for Highland Park and Highwood residents. As the philanthropic heart of the community, the HPCF strives to improve and enrich people's lives with annual grants to nonprofit agencies that operate locally. [www.hpcf.org](http://www.hpcf.org).



*Executive Chef Scott Becker, Binny's Resident Chef*



*HPCF Board Member, Julie Kraff and Coleman Kraff*



*Melissa Forman Wlit fm with Jonathan Blakey, Exec Chef for Ruth's Chris*

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