

PaperCITY

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Posh Purses, Cancer Crusaders Heroes for Children's very moving fund-raising afternoon

Hoorah for Heroes & Handbags

Among all the galas, luncheons, personal appearances and dinners we attend, one of the most poignant is Heroes & Handbags, a brunch and silent auction of covetable purses that raises money for families whose children are cancer patients. This Texas-centric charity really rings true when its founders' stories are told: Dallas moms Larissa Linton and Jenny Scott both lost young daughters to cancer, then started Heroes for Children to provide for the needs of other families. At the fourth annual Houston benefit at River Oaks Country Club, both co-founders joined chairman Alissa Maples who interjected compassion and energy into making this one of the most successful brunches ever. Rounding out the afternoon was the very real story of cancer survivor Blake, relayed by his father, Jim Lieberman, which brought home again the meaning of the day. Then Houston-based Elaine Turner Designs received the second annual Spirit of Allie and Taylor Award, named in honor of Scott and Linton's late daughters. And kudos to Texas Children's upcoming Maternity Center (opening 2011), represented by VP Cris Daskevich, which gracefully stepped up as presenting sponsor for the cause.

Philanthropists are Always in Fashion

High bidders and do-gooders admiring and acquiring sleek bags donated by retailers Neiman Marcus, Louis Vuitton, Tory Burch, Versace, Fendi, MaxMara, Elaine Turner, Tootsies, Gucci at Saks Fifth Avenue, Alexandra Knight, More Than You Can Imagine and more: Carol Isaak Barden toting Tory Burch; Liz Decker; Beth Muecke; Jenny Moore nabbing Fendi, Dior and Gucci purses early for her eight-month-old tyke, Penelope; Christian Dior's Jacqueline Clark (the boutique donating an orange Ave bag); the chairman's husband Kevin Maples and parents Virginia and Dan Steppe; Heather McLeskey with Elaine Turner; Heroes Houston manager Mimi Bates; honorary chairman, PaperCity's Holly Moore; Ursaline Hamilton; Sarah Simon; Elizabeth King; Heroes board chairman Allan Rayson; Mary Lou Fernandez; Sabiha Rehmatulla; Karen Desenberg; Laura Casey; Maryam Mireskandari; lucky Ashley Hopkins, who won the raffle bijoux gifted by DeVille Fine Jewelry; and next year's co-chairmen, Christine Hoffer and Celina Stabell.