

NEWS LOCAL

Little Black Dress Gala proceeds to support local cancer patient

More than \$20,000 was raised at this year's annual Little Black Dress Gala fundraiser. For the first time in the event's history, the proceeds were given to a community member battling cancer.



Pictured from left: Little Black Dress Gala volunteers Trudy Peterson, Maria Peterson, Calli Ferdig, Mary Hartje and Cassidy Linder. Contributed

By **Pioneer Staff Report**

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BEMIDJI — More than \$20,000 was raised at this year's annual Little Black Dress Gala fundraiser. For the first time in the event's history, the proceeds were given to a community member battling cancer.

More than 100 attendees gathered at the Bemidji Town and Country Club on Saturday, Nov. 5, in an effort to raise money and show support for Jarica Glime, a local 31-year-old mother of three young boys.

Glime was recently diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, which has spread to her spine and hips.

Jarica Glime. Contributed

The gala kicked off with a social hour and live music, while attendees were able to browse a silent auction. A plated dinner was served, and a fashion show featuring local boutiques was held.

Attendees also heard from several speakers, including an honorary speaker on behalf of Glime, who was unable to attend the event.

Since the Little Black Dress Gala's debut in 2014, proceeds from the event have been donated to nonprofits like the American Cancer Society and the Joe Lueken Cancer Center.

Calli Ferdig, a volunteer with the gala, said this was the first year that proceeds were given to a local family.

“Every year until this year all the funds went to a cancer nonprofit, and last year we actually created our own nonprofit,” Ferdig said, adding that the gala is run by a team of five volunteers. “We registered ourselves as a 501c3 so we can operate independently as our own nonprofit now.”

Once the gala was registered as a nonprofit, gala volunteers began seeking nominations from the public in search of a community member affected by cancer to who they could donate the proceeds from this year's event.

Attendees at the Little Black Dress Gala on Saturday, Nov. 5, enjoyed a social hour, silent auction, plated dinner and more. Contributed

“We accepted nominations through the fall,” Ferdig explained.
“Every single nomination we got was actually for the same person.”

With nominations unanimous in support of Glime, tickets for the gala sold quickly, with a total of 185 tickets sold.

While the full amount of money raised at the event hasn’t been finalized, Ferdig said their yearly goal was definitely reached.

“Our goal we set every year is \$20,000,” Ferdig said. “I know that we surpassed that goal this year.”

Tables are set ahead of the annual Little Black Dress Gala on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, at the Bemidji Town and Country Club. Contributed

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