

# GIVING BACK



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*“We are so grateful and honored that people stepped up so mightily for our families in need. It’s just a reflection of such a generous and loving community.”* —Nancy Wiersum

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Joe and Meena Banasiak at the Night to End Hunger event hosted by Loaves & Fishes Community Services

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NAPERSCENE

# NIGHT TO END HUNGER

A generous crowd sells out annual event BY JULIE DUFFIN

Loaves & Fishes Community Services hosted its signature fundraising event, Night to End Hunger, at the Medinah Country Club on September 18. The event, which sold out in May, was filled to capacity at 220 attendees. Supporters unable to attend contributed greatly through donations and an online auction. Over \$330,000 was raised to support the nonprofit's mission to provide healthy food and programs that promote self-sufficiency.

Unique auction items included a luxury Palm Springs vacation, a weekend in Fulton Market, the opportunity to have someone's name used as a character in an upcoming James Patterson novel, and an NFT (nonfungible token) image of a child receiving food at the facility.

Last year Loaves & Fishes served over 179,000 people, averaging just over 3,400 per week. "I have to be honest, we can only do this because of the support of the community," explains Nancy Wiersum, executive VP for advancement. "We are so grateful and honored that people stepped up so mightily for our families in need. It's just a reflection of such a generous and loving community," she says. ●

1 Kevin McKay places a bid on a live auction item. 2 President/CEO Mike Havala, ABC-7 sports anchor Dionne Miller, and Nancy Wiersum. 3 (From left, front row) Allen and Christine Bloom with Dennis and Kathy Abboud and Toni Havala. (Back row) Stuart and Karen Buck, Kevin Ryan, Dionne Miller, Christine Ryan, and Mike Havala. 4 John and Kaylin Risvold with Ross Berkley. 5 Heather and Joe Chura.



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