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Chuck Bennett: Society

Fundraiser for meals program was a huge hit



The demand was so great for tickets to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging's annual fundraiser, Cruising for a Cause, that planners added another boat. With the Ovation yacht filled to its 300-person capacity, DAAA events director Andrea Johnson said that after receiving more than 100 additional calls, she knew she had to do something. So she added the Infinity yacht to the program.

On Tuesday evening, the two big, white sleek boats glided up and down the Detroit River filled with supporters of Holiday Meals on Wheels, working to reach a goal of 120,000 meals served annually on holidays to Metro Detroit's homebound seniors. The cruise helps the agency to meet that goal.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by a uniformed boat staff and offered a glass of Champagne. Both boats served buffets consisting of carved turkey with a variety of sauces, baron of beef tenderloin and grilled vegetables.

A DJ played recorded music for dancing on the Infinity, while the Kimmie Horne Experience dazzled Ovation guests with a sparkling Las Vegas-style review. There was also an exciting silent auction featuring stays at villas in Jamaica, France and Italy. The evening's sponsors included MGM Grand Detroit, Sam's Club and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging is a private, nonprofit agency founded in 1980 as a senior planning, funding and advocacy group. With President/CEO Paul Bridgewater (who attended the cruise wearing a honorary captain's cap) at the helm, the agency made huge strides in keeping the service going while adding more seniors to the program.


Tickets to the Ovation were \$95 and to the Infinity, \$75.

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