

FORT IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Dubin Center announces record-breaking fundraiser results to support their vision—that no one will face dementia alone

FORT MYERS, FL (November 15, 2021) — In its 26-year history, the annual Brushstrokes from the Soul Art Auction and Celebration went off without a hitch! The record-breaking proceeds from this year's event directly benefit local families living with Dementia in need of the support, education and navigation provided by the Dubin Center. Numerous sponsors, supporters, and volunteers--along with the energy of the Honorary Chairs, Lou and Steve Pontius of Waterman Broadcasting--are what contributed to the success of this year's event. Platinum Sponsors were Cypress Cove and Cypress at Home! A full list of 2021 event sponsors can be viewed at <https://dubincenter.com/>

This year's event, which took place at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Thursday, Nov. 4th, exceeded previous fundraising records by raising more than \$65,000. Of this total, \$38,000 was brought in the day of the event itself through silent auction items, diamond earring raffle and live auction items, including a week in a private Sanibel beach front home. As a special surprise at the end of the event, Dr. Jo Stecher of the Shady Rest Foundation presented a check for \$25,000 to support the Dubin Center. "There are roughly 25,000 of individuals living in Lee county with dementia; it is our great pleasure to ensure there is a local resource to provide this invaluable support," said Dr. Stecher.

The highlight of the event were the 55 beautiful pieces of art on display which were painted by individuals living with Dementia. Each piece was donated and custom framed and stirred the emotions of event attendees. "This is my daughters' favorite event every year, they love to pick out and bid on the beautiful pieces of artwork," said Dr. Mabel Lopez who attended with her daughters Aurora and Río.

“The Dubin Center is back on the map, it’s wonderful to see so many people here giving to such an important and growing cause in our community,” said Al O’Donnell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. O’Donnell has been involved in the Dubin Center for over 15 years. “I’m glad the event could be put on safely in-person after being held virtually in 2020. There’s something powerful about community members coming together, fighting for such an important cause like supporting caregivers and individuals living with dementia.”

“Thank you to the everyone who made this event possible and a major success,” said Lynne Thorp, Executive Director.

Save the date for next year’s event on November 3, 2022! For more information or to stay up-to-date on next year’s event, follow along on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DubinCenter>.

The Dubin Center is a nonprofit agency aiding families of individuals suffering from dementia in Southwest Florida. Since 1995, The Dubin Center has supported caregivers and individuals living with dementia by providing support groups and training, home health care, community placement hospice, respite, and more. The staff and volunteers of the Dubin Center work to achieve caregiver health, strength, and resilience by providing education, information, hope, and compassion. For more information, visit <http://www.dubincenter.com/>, or call 239-437-3007.