



NEWS RELEASE

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FRIENDS OF BASSETT EXPANDS GALA AUCTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE BIDDERS

Cooperstown, N.Y. – Having assembled a treasure trove of donated items from individuals and businesses throughout the region, the Bassett Gala Auctions Committee anticipates that proceeds from this year’s auctions will exceed all previous records. “With offerings like a golf foursome with Hall of Famer Phil Niekro and a 2005 Cub Cadet Lawn Tractor, we expect very heavy bidding,” said Christine Weiss, committee co-chair.

The Friends of Bassett’s auctions – the Gala Silent Auction, held at the Bassett New Year’s Eve Gala, and the Pre-Gala Auction, which takes place in the Bassett Clinic lobby, Tuesday, Nov. 29, and Wednesday, Nov. 30 – have become highly anticipated seasonal events.

Mary Dunkle, the committee’s other co-chair, emphasized that the auctions are worthy fund-raisers. This year, proceeds are designated for the Friends of Bassett’s Initiative for Maternal and Child Care at Bassett Hospital, which is seeking to raise \$500,000 toward the modernization and expansion of Bassett’s popular Birthing Center and Pediatrics Unit, an estimated \$2.5 million project.

Eight categories – Art; Epicurean Experiences; Fashion & Personal Care; Garden & Home Décor; Out & About; Sports & More; Theatre & Getaways; and Unique – are filled with must-have or must-experience items. Lucky bidders will take home paintings, sculptures, pottery, photographs, jewelry, clothing and furniture; attend cultural, sporting and entertainment events; dine at some of the best restaurants in the area; or stay at luxury resorts. Minimum bids on some items begin at \$50.

Nearly 40, very affordable items make up the Pre-Gala Auction. Offerings include a bevy of useful gift certificates, gift baskets, toys, plants, art, ornaments and foodstuffs. Pre-Gala Auction items will be awarded to the highest bidder on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the Bassett Clinic lobby. Raffle ticket holders do not have to be present to win.

For a preview of the Auctions items collection, stop by Riverwood on Cooperstown’s Main Street. Selected items will be displayed in the popular shop’s storefront window from Nov. 17 to Nov. 27. Copies of “The 2005 Gala Auctions & Raffle” brochure, which details all items, provides instructions on how to place a closed bid for people who are unable to attend the Gala, and contains several closed bid forms, are available at Riverwood. Copies also are available at the Friends office (607.547.3567) or online at the Friends Web site (www.friendsofbassett.org).

Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends, gratefully acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the Auctions Committee. “The Friends is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who work year-round to create these amazing fund-raisers that contribute so much to Bassett and the people who rely on us for accessible, high quality health care services,” he said. Mr. Barrett also saluted the community members and regional businesses that have contributed their treasures and services to make the Gala auctions annual successes.

Photo caption:

The 2005 Bassett Gala Auctions Committee: (front row, l. to r.) Mary Dunkle, co-chair; Nancy Irvin; Ursula Hage; Gayle S. Smith; and Christine Weiss, co-chair; (back row, l. to r.) Alyssa McGoldrick; Ellen Sanford; John Sanford; Gwen Schuster; John Anagnost; and Albert Weiss. (Not present: Jean Cramer, Marolyn Kellner, Roberta Kieler, Margaret McGown, Doreen Potrikus, Robert Schneider and Joan White)