



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### BASSETT'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA RAISES OVER \$100,000 FOR BASSETT HEART CARE CAMPAIGN

**Cooperstown, NY** – Bassett's tenth annual New Year's Eve Gala lit up The Otesaga Hotel and the sky over Lake Otsego as approximately 400 guests dined, danced and celebrated the special event's fund-raising contributions in support of Bassett Healthcare's regional initiatives.

The Friends of Bassett's 2003 fund-raiser brought in over \$100,000 to benefit the Bassett Heart Care Campaign, the Friends' ongoing fund drive, which is raising \$12 million for the Bassett Heart Care Institute and supportive facility renovations such as Bassett's new critical care complex. Honorary chair for the landmark event was Cooperstown Mayor Carol B. Waller, and Frank J. Maloney, recently retired general manager of The Otesaga Hotel, was the honored guest.

Amanda C. May, executive director of the Friends of Bassett, praised the Gala's business and corporate sponsors. "The yearlong regional support we receive from our regional businesses and corporations make the Gala a success on both the philanthropic and entertainment levels," she said.

Lead Sponsors were New York Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company and The Colonial Insurance Agency, LLC, An affiliate of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. of New York, Inc. Corporate Sponsors were the Clark Companies (Scott & Betsy Clark); Andrew R. Mancini Associates, Inc.; and Tallman Enterprises Tree & Aerial Services. Supporting Sponsors were KPMG LLP; NBT Bank; and Tyco Healthcare/Mallinckrodt. Participating Sponsors were Apple Converting, Inc.; Bruce Hall True Value Home Center; Cannon Design; Cooperstown Dreams Park (Louis Presutti III); Fenimore Asset Management, Inc.; Halliday Financial Services; Media Logic; Northern Catskill Dental Associates, PLLC (Gerald & Suzanne Bers, Mark Lavine); and Turnpike & Hall of Fame Pennysavers. "Philanthropic support already is building for the 2004 Gala," Ms. May said. "We're proud to announce that Brewery Ommegang has joined us as a supporting sponsor."

Gayle S. Smith and Janet H. Snyder, co-chairs of the Gala Committee, saluted the commitment and hard work of committee members who volunteered their time and expertise to make the Gala worthy of a 10th anniversary celebration. Members were Walter P. Dolan, Mary E. Dunkle, JhilMil Ghaleb, Fran W. Gootee, Mona E. Harris, Beth Ann Hutcherson, Marolyn K. Kellner, Margaret McGown, Hana Rauscher, Polly Renckens, Ellen H. Sanford, Maureen Schuermann, Robert D. Snyder, Susan Streek, Carol B. Waller, Christine M. Weiss, and Bruce W. Wilhelm.

The Gala co-chairs praised the Silent Auction Committee for working year-round to encourage businesses and individuals across the region to contribute items to the auctions. Approximately 100 items were bid upon at the

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Pre-Gala Auction and Silent Auction, raising nearly \$30,000. The co-chairs also thanked Herrick Gibbons, owner of Riverwood, Cooperstown, who displayed auction items in the storefront window of his Main Street shop in Cooperstown.

Decorating Committee co-chairs Polly Renckens and Carol Waller congratulated committee members – Fran Gootee, Mona Harris, Marolyn K. Kellner, Marge Landers, Janet Snyder, Susan Streek, Maureen Schuermann, Maggie Schuermann and the hard-working Waller family – for creating a spectacular and memorable party environment at the grand Otesaga.

Sally Adams, the Friends' special events coordinator, expressed special praise for the Village of Cooperstown's Fire Department whose members oversaw the spectacular post-midnight fireworks display that took place over Lake Otsego.

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Photo caption: (From left to right) Celebrating the Friends of Bassett's 10<sup>th</sup> New Year's Eve Gala were the fundraiser's Co-Chair Gayle S. Smith, Bill Waller, Honorary Chair and Village of Cooperstown Mayor Carol Waller and Co-Chair Janet Snyder.