

Manatee



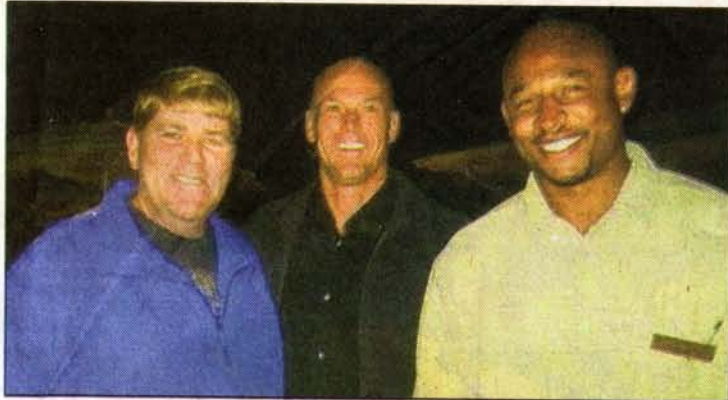
MARJORIE NORTH

All-Star Children's
Foundation puts on a
gala. **Page 9B**



Bart Pfankuch, Manatee Editor | 742-6153 | bart.pfankuch@heraldtribune.com

www.heraldtribune.com/manatee | Sunday, December 2, 2007 | SECTION **B**



Foundation gala stars John Daly, Jim Cunningham and David Wesley.



Cruise winners Jack McKissock and Linda Smith.



John Daly, singing with The Greg Billings Band, and Brian Johnson.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS / ANGELA NORTH

Co-chairmen Matt Drews, president of the All-Star Children's Foundation, and Dale Torborg, at the auction.

All-star bidders make gala shining success

The All-Star Children's Foundation, formerly known as the Sarasota Sports Foundation, put on a star-studded gala recently, presented by Stanford Group Company and hosted by the official sponsor, Longboat Key Club and Resort.

The evening began with a touching speech given by a child abuse survivor and therapist at the Child Protection Center, getting her message to the several hundred who were there to support the cause.

Foundation founder **Graci McGillicuddy** raced from one side of the room to the other to keep bidders bidding, and smiled broadly at her success. Two supporters spent \$50,000 each for a week on board the World of Res-idenSea, and another two bidders spent \$26,000 for an opportunity to join the Robb Report annual Car of the Year judging contest in Napa Valley.

The generosity of the crowd didn't end there, though. A beautiful custom pendant, donated by Diamond Vault and valued at \$10,000, was auctioned for \$25,000.

MARJORIE NORTH



Big noise in silent auction

Exec director **Trish Fitzgerald** said that the silent auction was extraordinary, too, with one of the items — a jersey signed by Red Sox captain Jason Varitek — going for \$50,000. The event also included a raffle for a 2008 911 Porsche Carrera Barbriolet, won by the **Mel Herrins**, with the very excited couple donating \$10,000 back to the foundation.

After the auction, PGA golfer **John Daly** got up on stage to sing with **Greg Billings** and his band, stars like **Brian Johnson** of AC/DC and **Duck Dunn**, forcing everyone to their feet... either dancing or crowding the stage.