

V Foundation raises millions for cancer research

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The V Foundation for Cancer Research's annual fundraiser, the V Wine Celebration, garnered more than \$4.7 million over the weekend of Aug. 7-9 for cancer research.

The total included more than \$1 million in "fund-a-need" donations in memory of former V Wine Celebration board member David Kane, who lost his 17-year battle with bladder cancer in 2011.

The V Foundation's three-day event attracted attendees from all over the U.S. for a gala weekend of events and activities to benefit cancer research.

The 16th annual Celebration kicked off on Aug. 7 with dinners hosted by Jean-Charles Boisset and Gina Gallo at Raymond Vineyards, by the wine-making team at Silver Oak Cellars, by Launny and Weezie Steffens at Vineyard 7 & 8, and by Suzanne Pride Bryan and Stuart Bryan at Pride Mountain Vineyards.

Friday evening's popular "Let's Get it Started" party took place at The Vintage Estates in Yountville, followed on Saturday morning by a free, public cancer research symposium, where physicians and research scientists presented the most current research to a standing room-only crowd. The V Foundation's 2011 V Scholar, William Red-

mond, Ph.D., from the Robert W. Franz Cancer Research Center, Providence Portland Medical Center discussed immunotherapy, and the Scientific Advisory Committee announced that they had selected nine grant applications to fund this year.

The 2014 Vintner Grant honoree is Naoko Dalla Valle, founder and proprietor of Dalla Valle Vineyards. Dalla Valle lost her father to lung cancer and her husband to prostate cancer, and in January of this year, her 11-year-old nephew succumbed to Diffused Pontine Intrinsic

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Glioma (DPIG), a pediatric brain cancer. Dalla Valle has raised \$350,000 to fight this form of cancer, and the V Foundation will make a grant in her name to Dr. Sabine Mueller, a pediatric neuro-oncologist at UCSF, to help launch a DPIG clinical trial.

The weekend's activities culminated with a dinner, live auction and a performance by the Midtown Men at Nickel and Nickel Winery.

Teri and Ron Kuhn, proprietors of Pillar Rock Vineyard began the event by making a \$1 million pledge to The V Foundation. A leukemia survivor, Teri Kuhn was the fund-a-need honoree at the 2010 V Wine Celebration. The

Kuhns also took home several auction lots.

Tribute was paid to the late David Reynolds, who served as auctioneer for The V Wine Celebration for the last 13 years with the announcement that a V Scholar grant was being made to the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center in honor of Reynolds and his widow, Coleen Buckley.

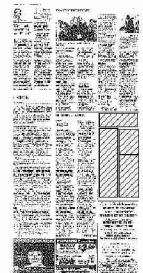
Buckley accepted the tribute and thanked everyone for their outpouring of support. "There is no group of people more generous to charities nationwide and more unsung than the wine community," Buckley said in response to the tribute.

Olympic gold medalist, world figure skating champion and U.S. Olympic Hall of Famer Scott Hamilton served as host of The V Wine Celebration gala dinner. After taking the

stage, Hamilton quipped at the number of titles used to introduce him and said, "the one I'm most proud of is cancer survivor." In 1997, Scott was diagnosed with testicular cancer, which he battled and overcame. Years later, he also faced brain tumor diagnoses twice, finally recovering in 2010.

Hamilton credited his mother for providing him strength, both in his career as a professional skater and when he was diagnosed with cancer—which came 20 years after losing her to cancer. "We're all here to give hope, to give money, to give the resources for brilliant minds to find a cure for this insidious disease," Hamilton said.

Bob Lloyd introduced the fund-a-need, sharing that both he and his wife, Kay, had lost their fathers to bladder cancer. The fund-a-need raised more



than \$1 million in support of bladder cancer research, in memory of Dave Kane, an active V Wine Celebration board member for many years.

Newcomers to The V Wine Celebration, Matt and Amy Follet were top bidders of the evening, taking home Lot #9, Diamonds are Forever, organized by Steve and Judy Padis. The lot included a 10-carat diamond and trips to New York and London, culminating with a party at Padis Vineyards in Napa Valley.

In its 21 years, The V Foundation has awarded more than \$115 million in cancer research grants nationwide. For more information about the V Foundation Wine Celebration, call 707-963-0611 or visit WineCelebration.org. The 17th V Foundation Wine Celebration will be held Aug. 6-9, 2015.