



# NEWS

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**CONTACT:**

April Klutenkamper  
636-757-9330 (office)  
314-488-5366 (cell)

## ***Youth In Need's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration of Youth Gala Exceeds Fundraising Goals in Tough Economy***

Youth In Need held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Celebration of Youth dinner and auction, honoring Paul and Gwen Middeke, on Saturday, March 21, 2009, at the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa.

This year's economy presents many challenges for organizations trying to meet fundraising goals. However, Youth In Need's supporters proved to be as generous as ever, raising \$277,000, through the sale of tickets, sponsorships, auction items and pledges for the Missouri State Tax Credit Program.

Silent and live auction item highlights included airline tickets from Southwest Airlines, sports memorabilia, a bevy of beautifully assembled baskets, a 40-bottle wine cellar collection, fine jewelry, a suite at a Cardinals game, vacations and a Heath Ledger-autographed *Dark Knight* movie poster.

Youth In Need is an eastern Missouri regional agency serving more than 10,000 children, teens and families each year with residential group homes, homeless street outreach, education, counseling and support groups, foster care case management and infant, child and family development programs. Youth In Need's mission: ***Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need's mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth, and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals, and build a positive future.*** Youth In Need's programs and services are funded, in part, by its 2009 Children's Partners, including Monsanto as the exclusive Principal Partner. Visit [www.youthinneed.org](http://www.youthinneed.org) for a complete listing of Youth In Need's Champion, Guardian, Trustee and Patron Partners.

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