

Celebrity bartending event nets \$2K for Daily Bread

BY MERYL E. WILLET
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

PUTNAM — On Friday, April 12, the Putnam Rotaract Club held its first ever celebrity bartending event at JD Coopers in Putnam.

The event was well received by the public, and as a result the group was successful in raising more than \$2,000 for the Interfaith Human Services of Putnam's Daily Bread food pantry.

Raising such a significant amount of money in four hours is no easy feat. Putnam Rotaract Club President Jake Dykeman said he was extremely pleased with the event's success.

"We could not have asked for a better turnout and better support from the community," said Dykeman. "Whether the support came in the form of a raffle, time spent behind the bar, or from people who came out just to support the cause, we thank you all."

Kathi Peterson, of IHSP Daily Bread, said she applauded the group of young adults for their efforts in putting the event together, and for reaching out to care for others in the community.

Rotaract member Crystal DiZazzo said she felt the event's turnout was an amazing representation of how the Quiet Corner community comes together to raise money for a worthy cause.

"I find it very rewarding to be a member of the Rotaract Club and look forward to many more successful events and volunteer opportunities," said DiZazzo.

The event ran from 5-9 p.m., and featured waves of guest



The Banking Team: Meg Popiak and Liz Zachow, of CorePlus Federal Credit Union, joined Josh Peach from Citizen's National Bank. Other members included Nick Mainville, of Putnam Bank, and Melissa Waite and Rhonda Pearson, of Jewett City Savings Bank.



Putnam Selectman Dick Loomis looks like a bartending pro. Loomis was working as part of the Political Team.



Crystal DiZazzo, Nancy McGeowan, Dawn Lazaroff, Jade Flynn, Mallory Murray, Sue Desrosiers and Emily Groves — all employees of The Arc of the Quinebaug Valley — celebrating a good cause to benefit Daily Bread.



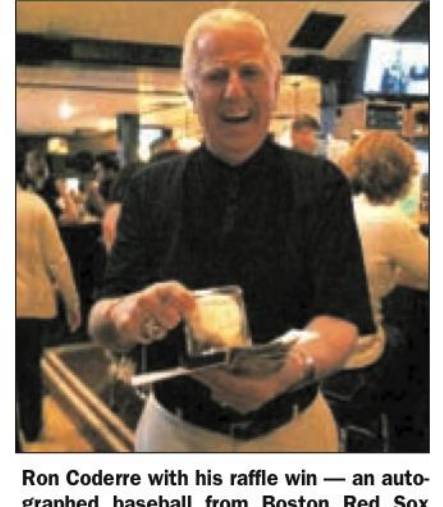
Ron Coderre, Dick Loomis, and Andrew Morrison working hard behind the bar for a great cause.



Gary Osbrey looks like he knows how to mix a drink!



Club President Jake Dykeman during his stint behind the bar.



Ron Coderre with his raffle win — an autographed baseball from Boston Red Sox Starting Pitcher John Lackey and a gift certificate to Famous Franks of Thompson.

bartenders, which included Putnam Selectman Dick Loomis, Josh Peach of The Citizen's National Bank, Nick Mainville of Putnam Bank,

Meg Popiak and Liz Zachow of CorePlus Federal Credit Union, Melissa Waite and Rhonda Pearson of Jewett City Savings Bank, Gary Osbrey, Kerri Price, Kerensa Konesni and Adam Heath of WINY Radio, Ron Coderre of RPC Associates, Jeff Rawson of Rawson Materials, Sue Desrosiers of The Arc Quinebaug Valley and Rick Place of Putnam Ford.

The event also featured a raffle with more than 25 packages of items, gift certificates and baskets. More than 45 local businesses donated toward the raffle.

Due to the community's generosity, the group was able to far surpass its goal, and raised more than \$2,000 for the Daily Bread of Putnam to help with its fresh fruits and vegetables initiative. The funds will be used to assist in a \$5,000 grant matching effort designed to

improve the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables offered at the Daily Bread and increase the reach of their Farmer's Market Coupon Program.

The Putnam Rotaract Club is a service organization for young professionals (ages 18 to 35) co-sponsored by the Putnam and Danielson Rotary Clubs. The club is in its second year and is committed to the Rotary model of "Service Above Self."

Previous accomplishments include hosting a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Home at Last Campaign and sending a member to the national Rotaract conference.

New members interested in community service and professional networking are encouraged to join. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/putnamrotaract-club.



More than 25 baskets were raffled off, many of them full of donations from local businesses.



Sam Stamatiou, Jake Dykeman, Bryan Smith, Andrew Morrison, Crystal DiZazzo, Jade Flynn, Emily Groves, Katie O'Leary and Sarah Mortensen — The Rotaract Club.

The club's next focus will be on donating time to community service projects, with the first being the Putnam Beautification Day April 27.

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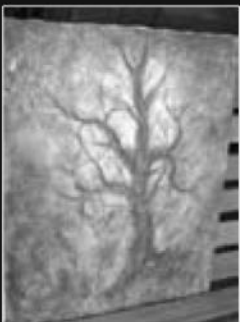
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