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Hospice Beats the Winter Blues with support from Leonard Oakes Estate Winery and a donation of \$2,500 from Monsanto's America's Farmers Grow Communities Fund.

For the second year in a row a local farmer has selected Hospice of Orleans to receive a \$2,500 donation from America's Farmers Grow Communities, a Monsanto Fund.

Charles Mathes of Mathes Farms in Holley, and Jeff Cunningham, Monsanto's Northeast Business Manager, kicked off the Hospice Beat the Winter Blues event at Leonard Oakes Estate Winery in Medina by presenting Nyla Gaylord, Director of Development, with a check for \$2,500 (see photo).

"Hospice has helped a number of people in my family and I'm happy to help them," said Charles Mathes as he and Jeff Cunningham presented the large ceremonial check. Jeff Cunningham explained that "This gift is Monsanto's way of supporting the local communities in which we sell seeds and other agricultural products to local farmers." Hospice of Orleans will use this gift to help fund costs associated with renovating a room at the main office for use by the bereavement group. Renovations will make the room look like a comfortable living room where there is ample space for group members to gather in an inviting atmosphere.

A sell-out crowd Beat the Winter Blues and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres from Zambistro Catering and improvisational jazz and blues by Doug Egling on winds and Mike Putman on guitars. A surprise guest, Kate Egling, sang some old blues tunes accompanied by Doug and Mike. The group is known locally for their regular performances with jazz, blues, and jazz fusion bands at the Dinosaur Grill in Rochester and local events. The basket raffle featured donations from Tim Hortons, Auto Zone, The Golden Comb, The Soap Cottage, Pudgies Vegetables, Pullman Universalist Church, Automotive Solutions, Rt 104 Redemption, ARC of Orleans Auto Detailing and Bill Blackburn.

Leonard Oakes Estate Winery, represented by brother and sister duo Wendy Oakes Wilson and Darrel Oakes, served as hosts of the event and provided the first glass of Blanc d'Orleans wine free. Since 2013, for every bottle of their white wine, Blanc d'Orleans sold, \$1.00 goes to Hospice of Orleans, the county's only licensed provider of comprehensive end-of-life care.

According to Mary Anne Fischer, Executive Director, this first time event was a sell-out and a huge success. “We hope to hold a similar event next year. We are very grateful for the support of the community, for our entertainers, donors, caterers, and the Oakes family for their long term support of Hospice of Orleans with their signature wine Blanc d’ Orleans.”

Photos:

“Check presentation” (left to right) Jeff Cunningham, Northeast Business Manager for Monsanto, Nyla Gaylord, Hospice of Orleans Director of Development, Charles Mathes of Mathes Farms

“Kate and Doug performing” (left to right) Kate Egling and Doug Egling

“Oakes siblings” (left to right) Wendy Wilson and Darrel Oakes

“Kate and Doug Egling and Mike Putman performing”

All individuals photographed have given their permission for publication.