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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Beat the Blues” Event Raises Record \$48,000+ for SJM Foundation

Hornell, NY...220 people packed The Main Place to raise record funds for the St. James Mercy Foundation on Saturday, February 17 at its 2nd annual “Beat the Blues” charity event. The event, which raised more than \$48,000 for the Foundation, featured dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the live music of *The Orient Express* from Victor, NY.

“Beat the Blues was a tremendous success,” said St. James Mercy Foundation Board Chair Lisa Schwartz. “Exciting things are happening in Hornell and at St. James Mercy Hospital, and it's extremely gratifying to see such a high level of support for – and confidence in – the organization.”

Foundation Executive Director Dustin Hewit said that support was evident among individuals and business leaders who sponsored the event.

"Our sponsors made Beat the Blues possible once again this year, and we are extremely grateful for their support," Hewit said. "This event, our Foundation, and indeed, the Hospital as a whole, has momentum, and that's not something you can create for yourself."

The following organizations/businesses provided key sponsorship support:

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Howard Hanna
Maple City Discount Liquor & Wine

Contributions from John Carbone of The Main Place, as well as Mike Doyle of Pleasant Valley Winery, helped make the food and beverage selections top-notch.

The 2018 Beat the Blues planning committee included:

Kathy Dessena
Jesse Ells
Steve Peck
Lisa Schwartz
Lynn White

A complete listing of the businesses and individuals who donated auction items may be found by visiting the Foundation's "Beat the Blues" web page at www.stjamesmercy.org. For more information about supporting the Foundation, contact Dustin Hewit at 607-324-8233.



Maninder Virdee and Foundation Board Member Jesse Ells check out the Silent Auction items.



Foundation Board Chair Lisa Schwartz and SJMH Chief Nursing Officer Neva Bossard display one of the live auction items.

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