

Chair-ity a success for dental patients

► All proceeds from second annual auction to go to East Hill medical.

LOUISE HOFFMAN BROACH
The Citizen

FLEMING — Take your seats, but pay for them first.

About 300 people filled the ballroom of the Springside Inn Thursday night for the Chair-ity Auction. They bid on a conglomeration of artistic seating to benefit East Hill Family Medical Center's dental program

East Hill is a private, not-for-profit diagnostic and treatment center that provides a full array of medical and dental health care for men, women and children, specifically targeting low-income, medically under-served individuals and families.

It was the second annual event that featured a wide array of chairs and other items, decorated and donated by Auburn's artistic community.

The evening began with a silent

auction with chairs that filled the inn's porch and entrance rooms. Raffle tickets were sold for a Harder Furniture cherry finished chair that retailed for \$1,100. There were other door prizes as well.

Many of the chairs at the silent auction went for under \$50. For a \$40 bid, Mary Jo Keba won Hydrangea, a pink sponge-painted wooden chair with a bouquet of flowers on the seat. She bid on it for her mother, Sandy Gonnella, who fell in love with it. Amy Garvas was the artist.

Keba's sister, Susan Cushing works at East Hill and was one of the event's organizers. She also had her eye on the chair, but it worked out fine because she was also going to buy it for her mom, she said.

During the silent auction, Jessie Kline of Auburn bid \$85 on a child's antique desk and attached chair decked out in anti-Bush political humor. Jeffrey Nichols of Auburn was the artist. He called the desk, with newspaper clippings of the

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Pam Kirkwood and Lorraine Newcomb check out the Heron Hill wine bottle in the "Twisted Sister" chair created by Jesse Kline during the Chair-ity auction in the Springside Inn Thursday night.

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Martha King, center, had the winning bid at \$220 for the "Chicken and Stars" chair painted by Carol Hamel. All proceeds made from the Chair-ity auction were donated to the East Hill Family Medical Center's dental program.

Nichols bashes President Bush with desk

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president's malapropisms, "my protest of government policy, which is smart bombs versus dumb kids."

She won the desk for her husband, who she said wanted it because he agreed with the political statement the artist was trying to make.

Kline contributed one of the wildest chairs to the auction.

Called Twisted Sister, the colorful chair was adorned with a feathered hat and encased in a pair of Kline's boots with toes that turned out too pointy to be practical. It also sported a wine bucket in its seat. It sold in the silent auction for \$65.

When the silent auction ended at 7:30 p.m., auctioneer Dean Cummins began auctioning chairs after humorous introductory remarks by local Realtor John Bouck.

The first seat that Cummins sold was The Time Out Chair, painted by Roseann Spinelli. With messages painted around the seat that read "Your behavior is bad, not you," and "I'm sorry, I apologize." It had a thick padded seat.

"I thought a time out chair with thick cushioning was something I would spend a lot of time on if I were a child," Spinelli wrote on the information card that accompanied the chair.

Bouck said the chair probably deserved to go to a spirited child whose parents "needed a break from some of that spirit."

Wayne Baker bought the chair for \$100. He said it was a nice little piece that he would use for his spirited grandchildren.

Baker lives in Plymouth, Mass. and was in town because his daughter, Shea Baker, was involved in the auction. She is a senior graphic designer for Coburn Design in Skaneateles and helped start chair-ity last year. Shea designed the identity of Chair-ity and currently sits on the committee. She had two chairs in this year's event.

Kasha Fletcher donated a chair she designed with her mother. Not only did the experience benefit East Hill, but Fletcher was grateful for the opportunity to promote herself as a local artist.

The effort that went into the chairs was no small feat.

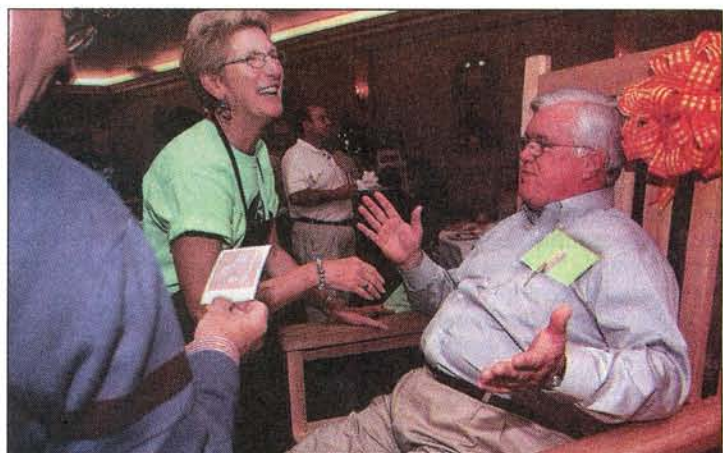
For her chair, Quilted with Love, artist Cori-Ann Sarnicola spent 44 hours painting.

"I enjoyed every minute if it," she wrote in the description of her chair, which resembled a fluorescent patchwork.

Dr. Charlie Keenan, medical director for East Hill, thanked those who attended as well as the artists who donated the seats, and their time.

"We serve a population that might not otherwise get served," he said. "All of the proceeds from tonight go to the clinic."

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Paul Lattimore shares a laugh with Holly Davidson, after getting his picture taken in the "Oversized Rocker" created by Edith Ann and donated by Florence Riley.



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