



Delaware Valley Legacy Fund

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Media Advisory

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REHOBOTH IDOL 2007 RESULTS AND BENEFICIARIES

REHOBOTH BEACH, DE - The Delaware Valley Legacy Fund (www.dvlf.org) announced the results of the Rehoboth Idol 2007 competition and the beneficiaries.

Rehoboth Idol 2007 winner, Lisa Taber from Maryland, roused the audience with Queen Latifah's version of "When You're Good to Momma" and Meredith Brooks's "Bitch." Taber chose to donate her \$1,000 purse to the *You're Not Alone* youth program of AIDS Delaware "to help youth connect with one another and to provide help and outreach to those in greatest of need."

Donations raised through ticket sales and funding from the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund totaled \$3,500 for the following beneficiaries:

- \$1,500 CAMP Rehoboth, Rehoboth area's LGBT community center
- \$1,000 AIDS Delaware for the youth program, "You're Not Alone"
- \$1,000 Philadelphia Falcons Soccer Club

Four singers hailed from the Rehoboth, Delaware area, two from the Washington DC region, and one contestant from southern New Jersey competed for the title with a wide array of styles and song.

Rehoboth area contestants: David Button, Rik McReynolds, Michelle Gagnon, and Carissa Meiklejohn

Washington DC area contestants: Craig Williams and Lisa Taber

Southern New Jersey contestant: Chris Lawler

2007 Rehoboth Idol runner-up, Michele "Sea Shell" Gagnon, unanimously won the Congeniality prize for fixing the sound system while the competition was in progress as well as for her efforts to recruit additional singers for Rehoboth Idol 2007. When asked why she wanted to compete, she replied that "it's my love of animals and love of singing." Gagnon runs a popular karaoke night at several establishments in Rehoboth Beach. "I want to see more support from the community to go to organizations like the Whimsical Animal Shelter, a no-kill shelter," Gagnon said. The shelter is affiliated with the Sussex County Animal Association.

Hostess Miss Dee Fenda and Host Buck Wilde led the competition with drag humor and incorporated audience participation, along with six Mid-Atlantic guest judges and one randomly selected audience member. The judges based their scores on singing ability, stage presence, and audience appreciation. Miss Dee Fenda said, “This was my first experience in drag. I think the event was terrific and we all had a blast raising money for some great causes.”

Dorothy M. Wax, President of the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund said, “We have wanted to engage a wider range of the mid-Atlantic region and to specifically support organizations in the state of Delaware. When DVLF was invited to co-sponsor the fundraiser, the decision stemmed from the Falcons’ commitment to support other organizations that provide important services to the community and their mutual interest in engaging people from all over.” Wax added that the Fund has partnered in the past with other groups to fundraise for the greater community including AIDS Services in Asian Communities (ASIAC), Philadelphia Theatre Workshop, and the International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

The show featured a barbecue dinner cooked by soccer club volunteers from the Philadelphia Falcons and the Washington DC Federal Triangles. Celebrity and guest judges included Steve Elkins from CAMP Rehoboth, Stage Director Michael Pranikoff, Matt Ray from *H/X* magazine, John Berdini, co-owner of Cloud 9 restaurant, and Laura Lamprecht of Specialty Wines and Liquors. Randomly selected member of the audience, Jason Childress, also joined the judging panel.

“Sponsors for Rehoboth Idol 2007 were critical to making the fundraiser a success,” said Delaware Valley Legacy Fund Vice President, Paul Knodel. “We had Cloud 9, Andrew Charles Petruzelli, Specialty Wines & Liquors, Inc., CAMP Rehoboth, *EXP* Magazine, *H/X Philadelphia*, Human Rights Campaign – Philadelphia region, Nightlifegay.com and Bruce Yelk, Philadelphia Gay Calendar, and the Sapphire Fund. All in all, a great crew.”