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POWER!

Benefit on the Bay's proceeds go to soup kitchen

JULY 27, 2008

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Editor's Note: A previous version of this story contained the wrong photograph for Mike Schodowski. The photograph that appears here is correct.

TODAY'S SUBJECT: Mike Schodowski, partner of Shelving Inc. and the Shelving Store of Madison Heights and Auburn Hills.

ADVERTISEMENT **THE CAUSE:** Benefit on the Bay, an annual fund-raiser whose proceeds go entirely to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

BACKGROUND: Schodowski began the fundraiser 15 years ago with a group of boating friends who were looking for a summer event that would reach a diversified audience, not only to help the Capuchin friars financially, but to spread the word of the important work that the Capuchin friars do in their soup kitchen ministry. Frequently, 2,000 meals are served a day at the soup kitchen's two sites.

The sponsors of the Benefit on the Bay event underwrite all costs. That means



Mike Schodowski

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that all ticket sales plus money generated from the live and silent auction go to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A favorite memory for Schodowski was five years ago when the area was hit by a regional power blackout. That was the first year the event was held at its current site, Mac & Ray's, which had a generator, enabling the benefit to continue. "All the phones were out. People made the drive without knowing if the event would still be held," Schodowski recalls. "People wanted to reach out and help Detroit's poor. You could feel the faith in the room that night."

RESULTS: The benefit has outgrown its space several times. Typically, the event sells out its 600 tickets. The first year it raised \$1,400; this year's goal is \$50,000. More than \$400,000 has been raised over the last 14 years.

INFORMATION: The 15th annual Benefit on the Bay will start at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 22 at Mac & Ray's, located on Lake St. Clair, Harrison Township. For more information about the Benefit on the Bay, call the Capuchins, 313-579-2100, ext 201. Tickets are available for \$50 each and include dinner and dancing. Or visit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Web site, www.cskdetroit.org.

Giving Back recognizes meritorious philanthropy and volunteerism among Michigan businesses, leaders and workers. To nominate a colleague, business, boss or friend, contact Randy Essex, ressex@freepress.com.

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