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Photo by Liz Mackinnon

Taly Haffar, Erin Hendricks, Jerry Joyner, owner of Gallery 2910 in Deep Ellum

## Fundraiser Honors Fallen Woodrow Student, Namesake Scholarship

Posted September 8, 2008, 3:00 a.m. by Liz Mackinnon

A record-setting crowd attended the third annual "Art in Celebration" reception Aug. 28, to benefit the Gustavo Ipiña Memorial Scholarship fund at Woodrow Wilson High School. Before the night concluded, this year at Gallery 2910 in Deep Ellum, the benefit raised more than \$8,000, topping last years amount by \$1,500.

With bid sheets in hand, about 140 people strolled through the gallery's spacious, softly lit rooms, which showcased a vast collection of one-of-a kind creations. The first thing patrons noticed when entering the gallery were the rows of brightly colored, hand-blown glass works blooming from the walls like fragile flowers from another galaxy.

Adjacent to the display, a video detailed the techniques involved in blowing hot glass into art. The creations were the work of resident artists Treavor Holdman and Michael Stoddard.

Around the corner were several oil paintings by resident artist Rick Timmons, best known by Lakewood-area residents for his landmark mural at Matt's Rancho Martinez restaurant.

Federal prosecutor, Taly Haffar, G.I.M.S. founder, and the former Dallas County attorney who prosecuted Gustavo Ipiña's killer, and Erin Hendricks, scholarship coordinator and prosecutor, donated their artwork. Friends and family of Haffar and Hendricks and other members of the legal community also contributed their work to the cause.

Haffar credits the benefit's new location, and the generosity of Gallery 2910 owners Jerry and Sara Beth Joyner with the show's success.

"Jerry actually purchased three pieces and turned around and donated them to the live auction," Haffar said. "The live auction portion raised a couple of thousand on its own."

Haffar added that the Gallery 2910 offered the larger space they needed to keep up with the growing popularity

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of the event.

The bottom line to the success of the G.I.M.S. continues to be the story that inspired the event, Haffar said.

"Because of the new location this year, we have a lot of newcomers to the event, so it was a good chance to revisit the details of Gustavo's case," he said.

Haffar also thanked the loyal crowd from Woodrow who return to the event each year to show their support.

"They still remember Gustavo and the road-rage incident that claimed his life in 2004, just one week before his senior year at Woodrow."

Ipiña's story also inspired Gallery 2910 director Megan Lapham to get involved.

"I was moved by the story of Ipiña, how his dreams and plans for the future were cut short before he could fulfill going to college and becoming an architect," Lapham said.

*Taly Haffar would like to thank the Gallery 2910 for offering to host the G.I.M.S. art benefit for another four years, and for donating 15 percent of its art sales for this month to the scholarship fund. Haffar thanks fellow G.I.M.S. coordinator and prosecutor Erin Hendricks for her "hours of dedication to maintaining the fund throughout the year." Finally, Haffar thanks friend and first year law student, Lindsey Galbrath, for visiting 20 galleries before finding the Gallery 2910. The Gallery 2910 is located at 2910 Commerce St. near the intersection of Commerce and Malcolm X Boulevard.*

*Since its creation in 2005, the G.I.M.S. has helped four English as a Second Language students at Woodrow fulfill their dream of going to college.*



Photo by Liz Mackinnon

Former Woodrow parents Marisu Fenton and Pam Mgebroff support G.I.M.S. fundraiser.



Photo by Liz Mackinnon

Kyle Rains, a 1976 Woodrow graduate, admires his recent purchase and generous contribution to the Woodrow Scholarship fund.



Photo by Liz Mackinnon

Erin Hendricks and Taly Haffar, G.I.M.S. coordinators, monitor the live auction at "Art in Celebration" benefit.

### 1 response to this article

**Jerry Joyner** said at 10:19 a.m. on September 8, 2008, 10:19 a.m.

Our staff was honored to be a part of this important event. We are looking forward to the art auction and fundraiser next year and our new gallery is excited to be involved.

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