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Mardi Gras in July Let the Good Times Roll

Text and Photos by Bob Rhein

Several hundred revelers enjoyed a perfect summer's evening and crowded the Fullerton Museum Center on Saturday, July 14 for the 6th annual "Mardi Gras in July." The celebration netted \$30,000 for WTLC, a registered, non-profit organization in Orange County dedicated to helping individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence and exploitation.

Mardi Gras in July is WTLC's major fundraiser.



***WTLC Chair Leah Song presents Mardi Gras King and Queen Roger Navarro of Yorba Linda and Marylou Perez of Fullerton.
Photo by Bob Rhein***

"Many thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and the community for coming together to make this event a great success," said Leah Song, WTLC Board Chair.

In attendance were Fullerton's newly appointed Mayor Pro-Tem Bruce Whitaker and his wife Linda. "Our second year at the WTLC Mardi Gras was even more fun! Great food, refreshments and entertainment are alone worth the price of admission, but the contests,



*Fullerton Mayor Pro-Tem
Bruce Whitaker and his wife, Susan
Photo by Bob Rhein*

photo booth, auction items and prizes make this a standout fundraising event,” Whitaker said. “Congrats to the WTLC and it's supporters! We look forward to next year's Mardi Gras.”

Also in attendance was Greg Seabourn, newly elected to the City Council, his wife, Stacey and son Wyatt.

“Mardi Gras in July is a great event to for the City of Fullerton,” he said. “I am happy to be able to show my support to WTLC.”



*Fullerton Councilmember Greg Seabourn with his
wife, Stacy and son, Wyatt.
Photo by Bob Rhein*

Guests sipped on authentic New Orleans Hurricanes and sampled fine food dishes including crawfish, creamed corn, sausages and tasty bread pudding from local eateries including Bourbon Street, Cajun Swamp the Cellar, The Olde Ship, and Big B's Barbeque among others.



**Members of the FUHS Circus and Kinetic Arts Club: (from top) Blake Danford, Bridget Fortune and Zach Peterson. Peterson is missing his makeup after participating in the pie-eating contest!
Photo by Bob Rhein**

Party-goers strolled through “Jackson Square” where vendors display their wares in a festive, carnival atmosphere. Colorfully garbed street performers from the Fullerton High School Circus Club entertained and amazed with feats of acrobatic skill and dexterity while lively music courtesy of Bonne Musique Zydeco with authentic Zydeco dancing lessons by “Zydeco Ted” of Two Left Feet.

Once again, one of the most popular events was the pie-eating contest where 12 brave souls pitted their faces against cream pies. Winner was Damian Lane of Fullerton who wolfed down his pie in record time!



Damian Lane of Fullerton was the winner of the pie-eating contest!
Photo by Bob Rhein

WTLC has been serving Orange County for more than 35 years, providing transitional housing and shelter for victims of domestic violence. This organization aligns itself with community partners including the Anaheim and Fullerton Police Departments, the Fullerton Collaborative, the Anaheim Justice Center and the Richman Community Center. Volunteers believe in this organization and contributed nearly 8,000 hours of service last year. The organization has the only domestic violence shelter program in Orange County that accepts victims of domestic violence with substance abuse, mental illness issues, victims of human trafficking, boys, male victims and re-entry victims being released from the prison system.

WTLC provides the tools and resources to build self-esteem and empower people for independent living, With Tender Loving Care.

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