



2023 Derby Day Soirée – That's A Wrap!

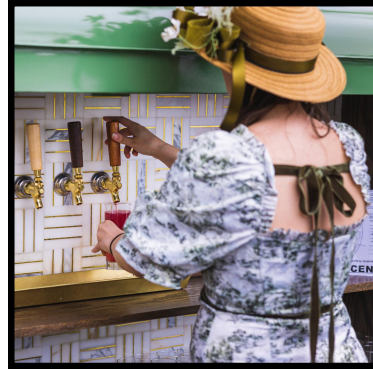
Our 6th Annual Derby Day Soirée was a huge success because of our amazing community! **TOGETHER** we exceeded our goal, raised over **\$383,000** (and counting), and made it to the "Winner's Circle!"



YOU help heal grieving hearts in our community, and your gifts ensure our peer grief support programs remain **FREE OF CHARGE**, for as long as a family needs!



THANK YOU to everyone who joined us at the 2023 Ele's Place Ann Arbor Derby Day Soirée! Our guests enjoyed a gorgeous, mostly sunny evening (did anyone really even notice the slight rain sprinkles?) filled with entertainment, mission engagement and community support. Thank you to **EVERYONE** – guests, sponsors, underwriters, donors, Silent & Live Auction donors and purchasers, paddle raisers, wager rafflers and volunteers. **We are so GRATEFUL!**



2023 Derby Day Soirée - VIDEO

One of the many incredible parts of the Ele's Place Ann Arbor Derby Day Soirée fundraising event was our mission video! We are forever grateful to the six special humans who graciously opened their hearts and shared their healing journeys and Ele's Place stories with everyone this year. **Beth Jakubik, Matt Jakubik, Mia Jakubik, Abby Spickard, Becky Stirling and Kate Tselios**, thank you for sharing – your moving and beautiful stories provide space for others to learn about the strength of peer grief support, and to understand they are not alone in their grief.

All eyes were on the video in the Derby big top tent, and every guest was completely engaged from beginning to end. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the video on the Ele's Place Ann Arbor YouTube channel.





2023 Derby Day Soirée - GRATITUDE

We want to recognize AND thank EVERYONE who helped make the 2023 Derby Day Soirée happen! So many committed and dedicated people and organizations made up our **VILLAGE** – we could NOT do what we do without our amazing volunteers and supporters!! **Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!**

♥ Thank you to all of our **2023 Derby Sponsors and Underwriters**...YOUR support kicked off our fundraising in grand style!

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♥ Thank you to all of our generous and supportive **Derby Auction Donors!** Your Live & Silent Auction donations were spectacular, and made for some exciting and energetic bidding wars during the Derby event! Thank you ALL!

♥ Thank you **Toby & Kathy Brzoznowski** for Chairing this year's Derby event and leading the amazing Host Committee – all of you were wonderful Derby Ambassadors! Thank you: **John & Lindsay Bogdasarian, Chris & Robyn DeRuyver, Al & Marilyn Gileczek, Chris & Sierra Imwalle, Ben Jeffers & Laura Tuschen, Henry & Hallie Jewell, Shawn & Kris Kerns, Kirk & Michelle Loveless, Kelly Muldoon, Bryan & Julie Muthig, Frank & Lynne Rademacher, Tom & Shirley Randall, Christina Restrict, Dean & Tracy Rose, Woody & Betsy Stover and Andy & Jennifer Tankanow.**



♥ Thank you pre-Derby volunteers who worked on Derby Planning Committees!! Thank you Auction Committee: **Angela Bruski, Kathy Brzoznowski, Shannon Campbell, Alison Cotsonika, Hallie Jewell, Lauren McGillicuddy (Chair), Susie Pearson and Paula Prisby**. Thank you Décor Committee: **Gabrielle Barron, Suzette Collins, Leyla Conlan (Chair), Riana Hardyniec, Brenda Henning, Michelle McAllister, Christina Restrict, Eileen Thacker and Carol Wright**. Thank you Sponsorship Committee: **Toby & Kathy Brzoznowski, Frank & Lynne Rademacher and Tom & Shirley Randall**.

♥ Thank you to **Beth Jakubik (Former EPA2 Participant & Current EPA2 Volunteer Facilitator), Matt Jakubik (Former EPA2 Participant), Mia Jakubik (Former EPA2 Participant), Abby Spickard (Former EPA2 Participant & Current EPA2 Volunteer Facilitator), Becky Stirling (Former EPA2 Participant) and Kate Tselios (Former EPA2 Participant)**, for sharing your hearts, beautiful stories and connection to Ele's Place Ann Arbor in our Paddle Ask video.

♥ Thank you to the Stover Family! We were so thrilled that **Woody & Betsy Stover, Hallie Jewell, Beckley Stover and Upton Stover**, joined us for Derby Day. Thank you for sharing Ele's legacy with all of us. Ele continues to make a positive impact on the lives of so many around the State of Michigan every day.

♥ Thank you to **Absopure Water Company** for donating MANY, MANY cases of bottled water, AND thank you **Two Men & A Truck** for donating the "move" of our Derby event supplies to/from Earhart Manor!

♥ Thank you to every "Day Of" Derby volunteer who helped make the evening a success, including: **Laura Baker, Doug Barber, Gabrielle Barron, Maribeth Beatty, Pamela Bebbler, Steve Bebbler, Erika Boehnke, Avery Bogdasarian, Angela Bruski, Rachel Bryant-White, Kathy Brzoznowski, Shannon Campbell, Jasmine Chaparro, Suzette Collins, Leyla Conlan, Jeanne Cooper, Alison Cotsonika, Shelby Dahms, April Davis, Todd Davison, Ellie Day, Brad Ekonon, Allison Gaines, Kathy Gaines, Lucy Grabowski, Kelly Halpern, Riana Hardyniec, Brenda Henning, Taylor Henning, Zoe Hilbert, Ann Hollenbeck, Gail Hullstrung, Shannon Hutchings, Janith Jayatilake, Susan Kaercher, Tom Kaercher, Hannah Kerns, Katelyn Kerns, Maeve Kilbride, Lizzie Kinsey, Karen Kohn, Kristen Lake-Davison, Claudia Laroche, Hillary LeVasseur, Rachel Madar, Blake Mahler, Scott Maly, Florian Matena, Michelle McAllister, Sophia McAllister, Nora McGillicuddy, Jeremy McGrew, Chelsea Molloy, Jennifer Nidetz, Susie Pearson, Paula Prisby, Christina Restrict, Francesca Rogers, Andrew Roman, Jane Schmanski, Alexa Schrock, Erica Schrodt, Joanne Skelly, Kate Soldan, Becky Stirling, Jessica Stubbs, Marsha Tam, Eileen Thacker, Ted Thacker, Meghan Thiel, Jenny Ware and Marji Wisniewski**. We appreciate all of your work setting up, cleaning up, checking guests in and out, selling raffle tickets, attending to the Derby Wager Raffle and Silent Auction tables, handing out goodnight bags and serving at the sweet & savory table.



♥ Thank you to the Derby Logistics Committee for making everything run seamlessly during the event, including: **Laura Baker, Allison Gaines, Kathy Gaines (Chair) and Marji Wisniewski!** Special shout-out to **Kathy Gaines** who has chaired this committee for 6 years!

♥ Thank you to our photographers, **Jeremy McGrew and Joanne Skelly**, for capturing so many special Derby moments that we will enjoy for years to come!

♥ Thank you to **Jim & Darlyn Daratony** from **Revel Run** for sharing your horses with our Derby guests! **Revel** was a hit and great addition to our Derby ambiance! Thank you to the amazing horse trainers, **Cierra Daratony and Chloe Miller!**

♥ Thank you to the **Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board** for being great ambassadors, supporters and donors of the Derby Day Soiree, including: **Doug Barber, Leyla Conlan, Jeanne Cooper (Vice-Chair), Michael Crowley, Ann Hollenbeck (Chair), Mishelle Lamarand, Tom Randall, AJ Scheidt, Jackie Silhanek, Michael Spath, Betsy Stover, Jessica Stubbs, Eileen Thacker, Lori Thomas, Rosalie Tocco-Bradley and Tracy Wraight.**

♥ Thank you to the **Ele's Place Ann Arbor TEAM**: **Bree Arvai, Stacey Bodner, Hannah Brown, Lindsay Clark, Zoe Hilbert, Gail Hullstrung, Susan Kaercher, Karen Kohn, Kris Maly, Lauren McGillicuddy, KaDerrick Robinson, Alexa Schrock and Meghan Thiel.** You are the best! TOGETHER we are BETTER, and once again, we MADE IT HAPPEN!

♥♥ Special thanks to **Stacey Bodner**, the Events Coordinator at Ele's Place Ann Arbor! The Derby event would not happen without the creativity, vision, beauty, class and sheer determination of this very special person!

♥♥ Special thanks to **Lauren McGillicuddy**, the Special Events Assistant at Ele's Place Ann Arbor! The Silent & Live Auctions were amazing because of you. You are our Auction Master!

♥ Sending shout-outs to **Lynne Rademacher** and her mom, **Marilyn Shiels!** We were so thankful to open the bin of Derby-inspired table runners that you created last year!

♥ Sending a shout-out to **Kerry Peterson** for adding the Revel Run logo to the horse blanket this year! We're still over the moon about the FABULOUS bidding boxes you decorated for the Derby Wager Raffle last year!

♥ Thank you to **Michele, Mark, Rene, Chef Rob, the entire facilities staff and the volunteer student athlete servers** at the Earhart Manor on the Ann Arbor Campus of Concordia University for the hard work it took to set up and prepare the food for the Derby event! We will miss hosting the Derby Day Soirée at the Historic Earhart Manor...THANK YOU **Concordia University** for an incredible run since 2018!

♥ Thank you **Elysium Experience** for your incredible AV work! **Nicholas Hardy, Erica Mathew, Jim Mathew, Mark White and JT Honce**, we appreciate your technical expertise, and we love it when you're in the house!

♥ Thank you **Chuck Colby** for serving as our Emcee for the 4th year in a row; you and your talents are so special to all of us!

♥ Thank you **Jim Alban** and **Andy Griffith** for serving as our dynamic Auctioneer team.

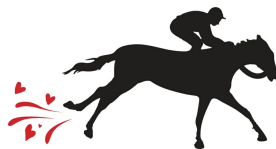
♥ Thank you DJ **Nicole Myint** for the music we enjoyed all evening...and for the FUN, FUN, FUN Derby dance party!

♥ Thank you to **Blue Zebra Marketing Solutions** for the amazing graphics & design used in our Derby marketing and promotional pieces! **Marji Wisniewski** we appreciate your creative eye and committed spirit.

♥ Thank you **Elite Parking Solutions** for providing excellent valet services for our guests!

♥ Thank you **Emily & Brad Haan** of **Third Wheel Mobile Bar** for curating our specialty Derby cocktails – Mint Julep & Pink Pony – expertly mixed by our community partners at **Ann Arbor Distilling Company**! The Third Wheel Mobile Bar served the drinks out of their vintage 1978 Piaggio Ape – so fun and memorable!

DERBY 2024 – SAVE THE DATE!



The 7th Annual Ele's Place Ann Arbor Derby Day Soirée
will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2024
at **REVEL RUN** in Chelsea, MI!

Were you unable to attend the **Derby Day Soirée**, and still want to support the grieving children, teens and families Ele's Place Ann Arbor serves? PLEASE click on the button below to make a secure online donation today!

**DONATE
NOW**

Ele's Place is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

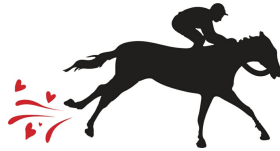
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TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER



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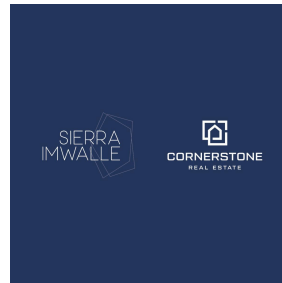
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