

goodwill sequel

What goes around, comes around. Pay it forward. This is not your mother's charity organization. However you want to say it, the Danville Children's Guild—a group of at least 50 women who revived a 25-year-old charity organization—is getting very 21st-century results.

"We were all a little shocked with what we were able to accomplish," says Lisa Pellegrini of Alamo, cofounder of the newest edition of the guild, after the group's first fund-raiser, which took in \$20,000 at a silent auction. The total was matched by an anonymous donor and then turned over to Comfort for Kids, a nonprofit associated with Hospice of Contra Costa County.

The story behind the story is just as awe-inspiring: Pellegrini and Heather Nynekirk, a Danville mom, reignited the group after Nynekirk, whose mother was in the guild back in 1975, realized it was no longer active. The two decided to put their efforts into getting it back on track.

"We asked a bunch of our friends—even our bunco group—to help out," says Pellegrini, a mother of three. "And some of the original members helped out as well."

Still, the group is facing one of this era's harshest realities: over-the-top prices to rent hall-space for an event. "Anybody have an estate they want to donate for a night?" jokes Pellegrini.

—Peggy Spear



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PETER CROOKS; PETER CROOKS