

# Singing with the Stars raises more than \$30K

By Megan Morris  
YourNews contributor

STUART – The lights, along with the performers smiles, were shining brightly at StarStruck Theatre on Feb. 20 as seven community notables took the stage with their professional partners to compete in the 2nd annual Singing with the Stars.

More than \$30,000 was raised through this signature fundraising event to benefit nonprofit Artists for a Cause.

In front of a sold out and raucous crowd, local shop owner Leslie Levy and her professional counterpart Charles Jones were the overall winners for their combination of funds raised and for receiving a perfect score of 30 from the judges for their performance of, "That Ain't the Way I Heard It."

"I am so thrilled to have the honor of winning Singing with the Stars this year," said Leslie Levy. "Charles was an amazing partner and mentor. I had such fun working with everyone in the talented cast and crew. I have watched my children perform on countless stages over the years. Now I know why they love it so much! I had a ball."

The award for top fundraiser was presented to Shaun Kelly who sizzled on stage while she performed "Fever" with Charles Jones. The winners had formidable but friendly competition from five other community stars, which were each paired with a professional partner.

They included Glenn Webber (attorney) with Shelley Keelor; Rick Creech (civil engineering and surveying consultant) with Avery Sommers; Rusty Meacham (major league baseball alumni) with Peter Jones; Hank Gonzalez (partner, Sailfish Realty of Florida) with Shelley Keelor and Martin County Commissioner Anne Scott with Peter Jones.

"We've heard nothing but rave reviews and couldn't be more pleased with our second annual Singing with the Stars. We are so appreciative of all the performers who participated in the event," said Terry Barber, founder and executive director of Artists for a Cause. "With the help of the venerable Jennifer Jones, emcee and director, and the event planning of The Firefly Group, the show exceeded our expectations. Most im-

portantly, the funds raised enable us to continue to do what we do best - to use art as a catalyst to meet the critical needs of our community."

Event sponsors included: Signature sponsor Mr. Chain; Paul J. Feinsinger CPA; CenterState Bank; Creech Consulting; Family Private Care; LEADERSHIP Martin County Class 2014; McCarthy, Summers Law Group; NisAir; Sailfish Realty of Florida; Fox Law Firm; Once Upon a Child; Hometown Cleaners & Tailors; Ralicki Wealth Management; Sailfish Realty - Hank Gonzalez; Zweben Law Group; Cray Buchanan; Ace Hardware; 3rd and Cali; Advanced Printing; Your Voice; StarStruck Academy and Theatre and The Firefly Group.

Also, many thanks to Women Supporting the Arts, the MAH Foundation, the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation, the William H. Donner Foundation and Elisabeth Lahti.

For more information about Artists for a Cause or to be considered for next year's Singing with the Stars visit [www.a4ac.org](http://www.a4ac.org), call 772-419-8778 or email [info@a4ac.org](mailto:info@a4ac.org).



STEVEN MARTINE

Singing with the Stars performer Leslie Levy (second from right) was awarded best overall and best performance with duet partner Charles Jones. Shaun Kelly took home the prize for best fundraising. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit organization Artists for a Cause. From left are Hank Gonzalez, Avery Sommers, Rick Creech, Shaun Kelly, Charles Jones, Leslie Levy, and Peter Jones)