

Players Club To Host 'Inspirit Idol: Karaoke For A Cause'

Inspirit, a Palm Beach County non-profit that takes live music to people who can no longer get out and enjoy it on their own, invites the public to its 2009 fundraising event "Inspirit Idol: Karaoke for a Cause," which will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Players Club restaurant, located at 13410 South Shore Blvd. in Wellington.

According to Inspirit founder and Executive Director Ginny Meredith, the organization wants participants to "raise your voices for a good cause." The event will include as many as 20 competitors who will try to out-sing each other for first place and a fabulous grand prize before a panel of celebrity judges. To compete, each contestant will have raised a minimum of \$1,000 in charitable contributions through their circle of friends and/or local business and organizational sponsorship.

The grand prize package is an "Inspirit Idol Weekend," which includes a six-hour recording session at Elegbaland Studios in Lake Worth, plus mixing and mastering of the finished product by noted area recording engineers John and Bill Storch, and a stay at the Jupiter Beach Resort.

You can't carry a tune in a paper bag? Or perhaps you can only sing in the shower? Not a problem, according to Inspirit President Rose Clements. "There are many ways to participate and support the important work of Inspirit," she said. "You can enter as a contestant, help sponsor the event or just enjoy a fun night out at a beautiful venue as an audience member."

The evening will also include a raffle, with one lucky winner taking home a large-screen flat-panel television. Tickets to the event, which include a complimentary drink and hors d'ouvres, are on sale now for \$15 each or \$25 for couples. To purchase tickets, or learn more about the event and available sponsorship opportunities, visit www.inspiritlive.org.

Inspirit was incorporated as a non-profit in 2000 by Ginny Meredith (then Ginny Williams), a breast cancer survivor who said she found her chemotherapy treatments "almost worse than the cancer itself."

It was only after a friend recorded some of her favorite songs and put them on a portable cassette player for her that she was able to tolerate the treatments.

"The music just seemed to make everything better," Meredith recalled. "So I decided that when I got through all of this, I would find a way to bring the



Inspirit Idol committee members (L-R)
Ginny Meredith, Carrie Frazer, Bill
Maronet, Karen Antonucci, John Pauly,
Cynthia Maronet, Sheldon Robertson and
Karen Roberts.

healing power of music to others who were in a similar situation.”

That led her to form Inspirit, whose mission has been to bring live music directly to people who can't get out and experience it on their own — such as those in veteran's hospitals, cancer clinics, shelters, nursing homes, Alzheimer facilities, rehabilitation centers and pediatric wards.

In its nine-year existence, Inspirit has held close to 800 performances at various facilities around Palm Beach County, bringing the healing power of music to more than 24,000 people ages two to 102. Inspirit was recognized as a 2008 Muse Award nominee by the Palm Beach County Cultural Council for its outstanding achievement in improving the quality of life in Palm Beach County.

Performers are paid a small stipend, usually around \$50, for their performances, but participants agree that the musicians gain almost as much from their involvement as do the people who hear the music.

“If we make one person smile more today than yesterday, it has made my day because we touched someone,” Grammy-nominated percussionist and Inspirit performer Michael Moses said.

For more information, call Inspirit Marketing Director Karen Antonucci at (561) 889-4388, e-mail [k.antonucci @comcast.net](mailto:k.antonucci@comcast.net) or visit www.inspiritlive.org