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"Favorite Things" Baskets a hit with Sharks Fans

April 20, 2012



Over \$11,000 Raised for the Bill Wilson Center through "Favorite Things" Baskets

Hockey fans often idolize their favorite players; they know their moves, their tempers and now they might even know their favorite type of candy. On Thursday, April 19 the 'Lady Sharks' gave Sharks fans a glimpse into the off-ice lives of their husbands and boyfriends by putting together the very popular "Favorite Things" baskets. The baskets included everything from Antti Niemi's favorite board game to Joe Pavelski's favorite golf putter. They also demonstrated the players' more serious sides. Brent Burns' basket, for example, was arranged in a camouflaged Army backpack and included a personalized jersey from Defending the Blue Line; an organization that Burns has strongly supported throughout his hockey career.

Fans surrounded the Sharks Foundation table throughout the game, often expressing excitement at finding a 'favorite thing' they shared with a player. The bid boxes quickly filled up with offers from eager bidders.

For this special auction, the Sharks Foundation asked the 'Lady Sharks' to choose a specific charity for which to bequeath the proceeds. This year, the ladies chose to benefit the Volunteer Case Aid program of the Bill Wilson Center, which focuses on helping at-risk and displaced youth become "self sufficient adults" by connecting them with adults who will provide "assistance, support and serve as positive role models." The Bill Wilson Center has supported Santa Clara County for nearly 40 years and has assisted countless people across the Bay Area with their multiple services.

After final bids were tallied and the winning amounts were displayed, winning bidders chatted with other fans about their plans for the baskets; the Joe Thornton basket, for example, would become a very generous birthday gift for the winner's 17-year-old son. Another basket would be added to a collection of baskets won in previous years. Other fans said they would simply enjoy knowing that they were helping a good cause.

Ultimately, Sharks fans recognized that the "Favorite Things" basket auction serves as a fun way to help the Sharks Foundation support the local community. That was evident at the end of the night when the proceeds totaled over \$11,000; an amount that will undoubtedly allow the Bill Wilson Center to continue their tremendous efforts in the community.



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