

## The art of fundraising

Dear Editor,

As director of The Land Trust of Napa County's Connolly Ranch Environmental Education Center I have the responsibility of raising our annual operating budget. Anyone who has worked in fundraising knows it is very rewarding work, but seldom do we think of it as art!

But I've discovered it can be just that. Visual art. Musical art. And, of course, Napa's unsurpassed art of good food and wine. The first annual Napa Valley Art Festival was held to benefit the Connolly Ranch. 41 artists exhibited and offered for sale over 300 original paintings. The 1,000+ attendees not only had the opportunity to see one of the largest collections of fine paintings to come to Napa, but they were entertained by three local bands that donated the time and talents to make this event really special.

I want to publicly thank JB Duo, Passin' Through and the Mean Time Playboys. The band members include Barry Robertson, Jay Goetting, Phil Blake Mark Seelye, Patty Saenz, Steve Smith, Sean Allen, Steve Steiner, Don Schmitt, Rob Crane and John Ruch. All of these people are amazing talents.

Still, the loudest applause from our community should be for their selfless generosity. These are true professionals. Not only did they take time out to help make the Napa Valley Art Festival a resounding success, they donated it all, just as they have many, many times to other nonprofit organizations over the years. A sincere thanks to all of you is what we have to offer. Just knowing how much your talent and selflessness brought to this community, especially our kids, is something you can feel proud of forever. Speaking on behalf everyone in Napa, we are certainly proud of you.

Bob Pallas  
Napa