

Buffett tunes, buffet line set an evening in paradise

— Cyd King

FAYETTEVILLE — A gentle nudge from George's Majestic Lounge owner Suzie Stephens helped the Ryan Gibson Foundation set sail on its flagship fundraiser, One Particular Harbor. Stephens' expert burger-flipping played an important role in the May 22 Cheeseburgers in Paradise, the Harbor "launch" party, hosted annually by Stephens and her husband, Jim Hatfield, at George's.

About 175 people — most of them wearing tropical attire — attended the pre-party, raising about \$3,400 for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, formerly the Arkansas Cancer Research Center in Little Rock. Organizers hope the later affair, scheduled for 7-11 p.m. July 12 at the Fayetteville Town Center, will raise at least \$100,000 for leukemia research. Stephens and fellow members in her Ultimate Supper Club give their time and resources to both events.

Guests at the Cheeseburgers party were treated to an attractive buffet of burgers and more, including hot dogs with the usual toppings, baked beans, coleslaw and cookies. Mini islands were used to center tables out in the wine garden. Union Reaux featuring T.J. Scarlett entertained with an extensive playlist, including several tunes by Jimmy Buffett, an obvious favorite of the organization.

Friends and family of Gibson established the foundation in 2001 after their friend "Gibbie" died from leukemia complications. The group has grown to include seven chapters in four states and raises money through a variety of events ranging from a fishing tournament called "Fins" to a medieval "Crown Ball," both held in Texas.



Jim Hatfield and Suzie Stephens, Leah Tucker and John and Pat Marcy



Dorothy Hanby (front, from left), Britt Skarda, Carol Lynn Gibson and Evelyn Shaw with (in back) Dr. Al Hanby, Don Gibson, Karen Skarda and Dennis Shaw



Julie Roblee, John Peace, Ruth Shields, Merry Lee Phillips and Dr. Rick Roblee PHOTOS BY CYD KING



Dr. Peter Emanuel, Gloria Redman and Rachelle Sanders, all of Little Rock, with Derek Gibson