

# Symphony Guild of Charlotte Festival of Trees raises \$5,000

**M**ore than 80 **Symphony Guild of Charlotte** members, supporters and friends gathered at the Jerald Melberg Gallery on December 1 for the annual holiday party. Guests feasted their eyes on stunning artwork, their palates on delicacies and their ears on classical music performed by members of the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra.

The evening, which marked the final night of the silent auction for 13 designer-decorated miniature holiday trees, centered around the Symphony Guild's second annual **Festival of Trees**. They were donated by Peppermint Forest and two special trees were created by the Charlotte Symphony Junior Youth Orchestra Parents Association and the art program participants at UMAR.

The trees were on display in the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center throughout November and at two Charlotte Symphony performances. Concert-goers and visitors were invited to submit secret bids for the trees and the Symphony Guild conducted an online auction as well. More than \$5,000 was raised to support

the Charlotte Symphony, the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras and youth music education.

"These custom trees were designed to enhance the winning bidders' appreciation of the arts while providing an innovative way to support great symphonic music," said Lisa Phillips, President of the Symphony Guild of Charlotte. "In addition, the trees undoubtedly will be the focal point of the winners' holiday décor for many years." ■

## get involved

**The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.**  
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704.525.0522  
[www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org](http://www.symphonyguildcharlotte.org)  
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*Written by Ashley S. Brown.  
Dianna Augustine, Shutter 16 Magazine.  
More photos at [www.societycharlotte.com](http://www.societycharlotte.com)*



Lisa Phillips



Catherine and Wilton Connor



Sally and Joe Moody



Lisa Phillips, Melissa Woolf and Linda Weisbruch



Robert Terri, Mary Melburg and Lisa Phillips



Susan and Paul Vadnais and Jack Woolf

## Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas

# Businesses inspire youth

**T**he 25th anniversary celebration of **Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas** emphasized the accomplishments of businesses that inspire youth at the Ritz-Carlton Charlotte on December 3. The theme, "Celebrating Our Past and Paving the Way for Our Future," was blended with the annual **North Carolina Business Hall of Fame** presentation.

JA efforts to improve youth education about business include classroom programs to bring training insight to local schools, job-shadowing opportunities for youth and summer business camps. The nonprofit partnered with the North Carolina Chamber to honor a statewide selection of business leaders. "It's a great partnership because they represent the mission to prepare students for tomorrow and prepare them to be leaders," said Chelsea Cote, Development Manager for JA.

This year, 320 guests heard about the accomplishments of George H.V. Cecil, Chairman of Biltmore Farms, LLC; Boyd L. George, Chairman and CEO of Alex Lee, Inc.; and J. Gregory Poole Jr., Chairman Emeritus of the Gregory Poole Equipment Company.

Speaker Thom Tillis discussed the need to teach financial literacy to ensure the success of the American economy. "He also focused on continuing to grow the entrepreneurial spirit of our youth," said Sarah Cherne, President of JA.

"Everyone that we've honored over the past 25 years represents what we hope JA can produce in our students," Cote said, "what we hope our students will become one day." ■

## get involved

**Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas**  
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[www.jacarolinas.org](http://www.jacarolinas.org)  
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*Written by Katie Toussaint.  
Photos by PPT Photography.  
More photos at [www.societycharlotte.com](http://www.societycharlotte.com)*



Lisa and Brian Elsworth



Wendy and Joel Reichard and Kevin Pitts



Christina Sims and Alexandra Pasola



Sarah Cherne, Thom Tillis and Brian Elsworth



Karen and Paul Broyhill



Ben Bradsher, Donna Cooper and Bill Watkins