



PHOTO COURTESY LARRY PATRIZIO

Jonah Schneider, Ben Hasson, Sam Fried and Jacob Goodman present a check to the Warrior and Family Assistance Fund.

12-year organization continues to raise money with local car show

By CATHERINE FERRIS

A passion for cars is what started a 12-year-old charity organization known as the Scarsdale Concours D'Elegance, which holds a car show in the village each year to raise money for community based charities.

Larry Patrizio, a member of the organization, said the group's membership consists largely of fathers and sons, though there are some individuals who participate as well.

"Traditionally, we've been keeping it up with how the show originally started," Patrizio said. "It was started by two high school students."

This year's car show took place Oct. 4, and Patrizio said he estimated the turnout to be about 1,000 people. The suggested donation for entry was \$10.

Some of the money collected went toward the expenses such as decorations, website design and advertisement for the nonprofit group, but Patrizio said the organization managed to raise \$24,000 total from this year's car show. That money was divided equally between three community charities: Warrior and Family Assistance Fund, which is sponsored by the Scarsdale Police Department, the Scarsdale & Edgemont Family Counseling Service and the Scarsdale Foundation.

"Our charity selection is based on local charities, first and foremost," Patrizio said. Because the organization's main focus is to donate to local charities, there is a rotation of ben-

eficiaries from year-to-year, Patrizio said. White Plains Hospital has also received a donation from the Concours.

Patrizio said the organization limits the number of beneficiaries each year to keep the amount of money donated meaningful.

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"We try to make a sizable donation to three," he said.

He also said, while there isn't necessarily a set goal in mind for the organization, \$5,000 to donate to each charity is the minimum amount they hope to raise. "Anything above \$5,000 is successful," he said.

The car show takes about year to put together. Between obtaining sponsors and advertising to generate revenue, soliciting classic cars, getting permits and insurance, and booking a band to play for the day, Patrizio said it is a long process. A portion of the village's downtown area is closed down, and the public parking spaces are filled with vintage classic cars.

Though the car show took place in October, the presentation of the checks to the three beneficiaries took place Dec. 21 in Rutherford Hall in village hall. Members of Concours D'Elegance, a representative from each of the beneficiaries and a representative from Mayor Jon Mark's office gathered to take part in the presentation ceremony.

The donation came at an opportune time for Marvin Wunsch, the representative of the Warrior and Family Assistance Fund. Wunsch is a World War II veteran who served in the Navy. Patrizio said the 91-year-old currently lives about four hours away from his closest relative, making it difficult for him when the electricity goes out, especially in the winter months. He said Wunsch made several unsuccessful attempts with the veteran administration to get financial assistance and approached the Warrior and Family Assistance Fund, which was able to help him buy a generator for his home.

Patrizio said Concours does not have a say in how the money that is donated to each charity is allocated, but the timing of the aid to Wunsch was in line with the presentation.

The ceremony also recognized Ben and Ira Hasson and Sam and David Fried, Concours members who are graduating from high school this year and their fathers, with appreciation plaques. Next year, Patrizio said he is hoping to make the car show bigger and better attended.