



SENATOR MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

Mr & Mrs Maffera -
Thank you for
making a difference.
Mike



Supporters. Cynthia Cintron Calhoun, left, and Shawna Kelsch were happy to support the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project fundraiser in Melbourne.

Courageous family continues to help children in need

What: M.O.R.G.A.N. Project Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

When and where: Oct. 18, Lexus of Melbourne

Amount raised: \$3,000 estimated

Organization: M.O.R.G.A.N. Project

I wrote about the Robert and Kristen Malfara a few weeks ago after a friend of mine, Shawna Kelsch, e-mailed me about the family's charity. On Oct. 18, I was happy to meet them in person. I also met their sons, B.J. and Morgan.

The family was on hand for the M.O.R.G.A.N. Project Cocktail Party and Silent Auction, held at Lexus of Melbourne on U.S. 1. About 75 people attended and raised about \$3,000. All of that money goes directly to helping other children in need.

But let me take a step back. Several years ago, Morgan was diagnosed with a disease doctors said would end his life within three years. This week, he celebrated his 11th birthday. Needless to say, the family is

pretty happy.

The Malfaras stand out because they took their family crisis and turned it into a charity for helping others, even naming it after their son. I admire them for their courage.

"I was very pleased with the turnout. Everybody was extremely generous with their spirit and donations," Kristen Malfara told me after the event. "You can do a very little bit to make a very big difference. That's the best lesson to teach your children."

I also spoke with T.R. Page, the owner of Lexus of Melbourne, who helped sponsor the event.

"Any way we can help, we will. The Malfaras' lives are filled with helping other people," he said.

I also met Jamie Field, Mary Wolfe, Helene Pinsky, Phyllis Smith, Ken and Marilyn Mageau, Dewayne Carpenter, Lorin Cox, Matt and Sheri Tremmel, James and Clara Jackson, David Kolb, Jason and Jill Duff and Dale Page. ■

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Kristen Malfara, organizer