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First Casino Night raises \$8,000 for Avon Education Foundation

About 100 people came out to enjoy a night of fun and games

By *Haley Behre*

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — About 100 people came out this past weekend for an evening of fun and games to raise funds for the Avon Education Foundation.

Each year the Avon Education Foundation hosts one “premiere” fundraising event for the community, and this year, for the first time, the foundation decided to host a casino night, said Tess Nielsen, Avon Education Foundation president.

The event was held on Saturday night at the Spring Lake Manor in Spring Lake Heights.

The event included a buffet dinner, hour-long open bar, raffle prizes, a silent auction, a 50/50 and nine different gaming tables. Entertainment was provided by the Justin Lee Trio.

“We had an unprecedented success,” Ms. Nielsen said.

The foundation raised close to \$8,000, which will help continue its initiatives as well as fund new ones.

“It’s for town-wide learning,” Ms. Nielsen said about the education foundation’s goal and what it hopes to achieve with its initiatives.

The money will help continue its teacher mini grant program and after-school music program. The foundation has already donated \$2,000 to a teacher this year as part of a mini grant.

It will also help build on the summer adult education program that was started last year by allowing the foundation to start a lecture series, Ms. Nielsen said.

In addition, the money will also help kick start some new initiatives, such as a high school scholarship for Avon residents, she said.

Photos

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Dealers Robert Roger, of Toms River [left], and Dennis DiClaudio, of Sicklerville [right], watched as Willy Hopkinson, of Avon [second from left] and Tom Peter, of Avon, tried their luck at craps this past weekend at the Avon Education Foundation’s Casino Night. The Casino Night was a fundraiser for the foundation to help it continue its programs and initiatives. *Photo by SUEANNE GOSS, STAR NEWS GROUP*

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