

Fleurish

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Quincy Jones, 25 Down syndrome models shine at fashion show

'Be Beautiful, Be Yourself' draws 1,200 attendees

BY GLORY WEISBERG

Over \$1 million was raised for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, Oct. 10, when 1,200 people came to hear and see music icon Quincy Jones, watch a Saks Fifth Avenue fashion show featuring Down syndrome children and bid on some unique goodies.

This was quite a night for Denver! It all began with Cherry Hills Village residents **Anna** and **John Sie** and daughter **Michele Whitten** whose adorable daughter **Sophie** has the genetic disorder. The foundation supports research and clinical care benefiting the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome at the Anschutz Medical Campus. They hope to eradicate the medical and cognitive markers for DS.

Just about the richest collection of live auction items ever witnessed in Colorado took center stage when Metropolitan Homes CEO **Peter Kudla** led the sometimes hilarious auction, flipping hats and other costume attire, to rev up bids.

But the focus was on the DS children who won everyone's heart as they modeled fashions, arm in arm with Denver Nuggets dancers. And if all that wasn't enough to keep everyone paying attention for hours, **Josh Kelley** dedicated a medley of songs to the disabled

models, followed by dancing in the massive Hyatt Regency Convention Center ballroom

A stellar event committee was led by the Sies and Ricki Perry Rest and David Rest. They helped bring in **Larry Mizel**, **Steve and Cindy Farber**, **Norm and Sunny Brownstein**, **Ernie and Sharon Magness Blake**, **Tom Arnold**, Gov. **Bill** and **Jeannie Ritter**, Mayor **John Hickenlooper**, **Essie**

Perlmutter and others whose attendance no doubt insured that million dollar bottom line.

Danielle Dascalos, **David Aarestad**, **Greg Karsh**, **Paula Newberry-Arnold**, **Rebecca Lim**, **Suzanne Arkle Wilson**, **Debbie Egner** and a roomful of others were on the committee. **Chris Meza** and **Brian Jacobson**, **John Elway**, **John and Linda Lynch**, **Ed and Lisa McCaffrey**, **Michael Young**

and Dr. **Dean Prina** were among honorary committee members.

Fashions came from Burberry, Donna Karan, Escada, Giorgio Armani Collezioni, LaVia 18, Lafayette 148 and the ultra upscale Ralph Lauren Blue collection of really wearable clothes for guys, children and women alike.

Special guest and music icon **Quincy Jones**, whose *We are the World* recording was the best selling single in history that raised \$63 million for Ethiopian famine relief, was a charming addition to the event.

"In 1992 I worked with Eunice Kennedy Shriver on the Special Olympics," he said when accepting the first Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award from Mr. Sie. "Love, laugh, live and give," Jones told the audience, noting that in 1950 John Sie came to America.

"He's still a brother from another mother," Jones said. "We've got to hold each other's hand now. Get off your booty and do something!"

"Be Beautiful, Be Yourself" was the theme for the Jet Set Fashion Show. **Chase Turner Perry** was the

2009 event Ambassador and he's one amazing 3 year old. He retells the story of what happened when he was born, surprising his parents who didn't know Chase "was going to be a boy and they did not know I had an extra chromosome. They thought this meant I was 'retarded.'" Chase said he knows the word retarded "is not a nice word and not a word that should be used for people with Down syndrome." At The Children's Hospital, doctors realized that Chase needed more oxygen, which "helped me grow smart."

Indeed, Chase is a gifted reader, he eats with utensils and understands complex words many adults don't know about.

Now isn't Chase the kind of kid you'd like to help grow up and have a fulfilling life? Motivating, to say the least.

To find out more about the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, visit www.coloradojetset.com, then do what Jones demanded, do something, like donate and/or volunteer to help the cause.

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Models Valerie and Jasmin flank Quincy Jones



Saks Cherry Creek Store Manager Kay Cline with Gov. Bill and Jeannie Ritter



Lisa Williams, Sharon Magness Blake and Peter Kudla



Miss Colorado Katie Layman, actor Tom Arnold, Miss Colorado Outstanding Teen Jandle Osborn and in front, Alan Beals

Photos by Glory Weisberg



Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper with Anna and John Sie



Hanna Colette Atkinson and her mom, Colette Atkinson of Littleton



Linda Goto and Michelle Whitten