

Holly Creek hosts tasty, worthy affair

SUBMITTED BY OLIVIA MAYER, CLC

Nearly 300 guests mingled and generously opened their hearts and wallets May 6 to support the *finishing TOUCHES* at Clermont Park campaign – and to honor **Earl L. Wright**, chairman and CEO of AMG National Trust Bank, for enriching lives in his community – during Christian Living Communities' fifth annual *Aged to Perfection* silent auction and tasting event.

Among the guests gathered at the Holly Creek retirement community were **Wayne and Joyce Hutchens, Dr. Gary and Phyllis Vander Ark, and Lowell and Mona Palmquist**. Attendees bid on trips, sporting events, food/wine baskets and other items so that CLC may purchase furnishings, accessories and small equipment to make Clermont Park, a retirement community located in University Hills, more comfortable with home touches. This is the fifth consecutive year Holly Creek hosted the event.

"The roots of this organization run so deep that year after year, in good times and in bad, the friends of CLC remain loyal and committed to quality senior living," said **Ed Schans**, a 14-year CLC board member.

Savory aromas filled the air as executive chefs from the four CLC communities feverously prepared an appetizer, entrée and dessert in a live cooking competition mimicking the popular "Iron Chef" television program. Guests enjoyed



CLC Board Chair Ed Schans, Honoree Earl L. Wright, and CLC President and CEO Russ DenBraber

Photo courtesy of Olivia Mayer, CLC

watching the competition and bid on gourmet meals for two to a dinner party for eight. **Sandy Clark, Sarah Pfannenstiel, Rhoda Friesen and April Henderson** won a bidding competition to judge the culinary contest. The four-member team of The Johnson Center community was crowned "Best of the Best."

Following the auction, CLC paid tribute to its 2010 Community Enrichment Honoree, Earl L. Wright. Since he was a young man, Wright has given both time and money to numerous community organizations due to his personal philosophy that making communities stronger is the responsible thing to do. Throughout his career, he has served on numerous community boards, including the Alliance for Choice and Education and the Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

His firm is dedicated to helping clients increase their wealth so that, in turn, they will have more to give communities in need. Staff members also give time and expertise to serve a variety of nonprofits that touch them personally.

"I was surprised and humbled to be recognized with this award," Wright said. "It is the only recognition I've received that truly encapsulates my career and commitment to community involvement. My life has been an amazing journey, and it has been wonderful to see firsthand the multiplier effect that philanthropy and volunteerism can provide."

CLC President and Chairman **Russ DenBraber** said, "This event is about recognizing CLC's friends and community leaders who, like a fine wine, improve with age. It is wonderful to honor those friends who are making such a difference."

