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## The Power of Partnerships



Community partnerships are the lifeblood of Bost. We got our start when Dr. Bost and the ladies of the Fort Smith Junior Civic League partnered to go to local businesses, hat in hand, to raise funds to serve disabled individuals in our community. Since 1959, we have continued to rely upon these strong bonds within our community for their assistance, feedback,

and direction.

We realize not all partnerships look the same, and we thrive on these unique and different relationships! Many in our community have chosen to partner with Bost to employ the individuals we serve, whether it be contracts in our workshop or a job opportunity in the community. Others have chosen to partner with us to help us establish unfunded best practices like sensory rooms, play and exercise equipment, or learning technology for those we serve. Some partner with us for Grape Escapes, while still others provide assistance for activities or events. Each of these types of partnerships give those served by Bost opportunities for a better, more independent life.

Our community is better when we work together to make things happen. If you are interested in a partnership, donating, or would like more information about our services, give us a call at 479-652-4553 and let's talk about what we can do TOGETHER to serve our community.

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## Grape Escapes, A Vine Affair 20 Years in the Making!

For 20 years, Grape Escapes has been Bost's signature event. The cocktail style fundraiser provides guests

with the opportunity to sample wines from around the world while enjoying tasty treats from local restaurants and caterers, in a beautifully appointed space where friends are plentiful. We usually enjoy live music, a wine pull, and live and silent auctions.

2021 saw a first for Grape Escapes; a VIRTUALLY Vine Affair where we took the event strictly online and we were still blessed to raise over \$61,000 to be used LOCALLY for the continuation of services and supports to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and mental health needs!



In 2022, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Grape Escapes is breaking from the norm once again. COVID is still a prominent concern; so rather than have a large event open to the public, we are going to scale down and host a VIP Grape Escapes for our partners. Practically speaking, this will mean only hosting 200-250 in the full ballroom rather than having over 500 ticket holders in addition to our vendors. This will allow our cherished guests to spread out more and hopefully feel more comfortable, while still sampling wonderful wines and delectable small bites! We are going to forgo a live auction in favor of an online auction that will carry on throughout the week following Grape Escapes to keep the fun going longer.

It is our greatest hope that Grape Escapes will eventually return to normal. Until that time, we will continue to adapt to the environment around us because those we serve still need us, and we still need YOU. If you aren't attending Grape Escapes, please know there are many ways outside of monetary donations that you can help Bost. You can continue to refer children and adults for services as well as send potential employees our way to join the Bost team. Most importantly, you can continue to be active citizens in our community with open eyes and ears to make sure the individuals we serve are well taken care of, by all of us.



Now in our 20<sup>th</sup> year, Grape Escapes is Bost, Inc.'s cocktail style, signature fundraiser providing guests with the opportunity to sample wines from around the world and enjoy hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants and caterers. We will also have live music

from the Don Bailey Trio featuring Tabitha Graves, a lively auction, and raffle, along with a photo opportunity!

All funds raised will be used LOCALLY in our community to fund critical services and supports for individuals with disabilities served by Bost. Bost, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving individuals with disabilities and their families.

Must be 21 to attend.

Thank you to our donors, partners, restaurants, caterers, wineries, and distributors. Without you, Grape Escapes wouldn't be possible!

*Balthazar Partner - Regions Bank*

*Salmanazar Partners - AT&T, BHC Insurance, Riverside Furniture, Little Shaneyfelt Marshall & Co, First National Bank of Fort Smith, Nabholz Construction*

*Methuselah Partners - JCL of Fort Smith, Simmons Bank, One Digital*

*Jeraboam Partners - Yaffe Iron & Metal, Arkansas Glass & Mirror, Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Landmark CPAs, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, Propak Corporation, First Security Bank*

*Magnum Partners - Mary Ann Arnold, ArcBest, Johnson Dermatology, Harness Roofing, Debby Thetford Nye Attorney at Law, Robertson Beasley Shipley & Robinson PLLC, Arkansas Valley Electric, CareSource, The Donaubauer Group of Raymond James, Stainless Innovations, Sandata, Center for Hearing*

*In-Kind - Parrot Island, Studio B3, 5 Star Productions, Chautauqua Vineyards,*

*Donors - Susan Billingsley, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Priakos, Town & Country Liquor, Karen LeRosen, Coca Cola, Burford Distributing, Inside/Out Designs, Newton's Jewelers, Taliano's, Cheers Liquor*

*Restaurants & Caterers - Beland Manor, Confectionately Yours, Bricktown Brewery, Red Lobster, Zapata's Mexican Grill, Papa's Pub & Pizzeria, Neumeier's Rib Room, Wyndham Fort Smith, Uncork'd, Revel Restaurant & Bar, The Rialto, R&R Curry, Amazing Graze*

*Wineries & Distributors - Diamond Beverage Group, Dionysus Wine & Brew, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Post Winery, Wiederkehr Wine Cellars, Wyldewood Winery, Denux Distributors, Deep Branch Winery, Vino Distributors, Burford Distributing*

**Partnership are still available. Please contact Jeanne Hill at [jhill@bost.org](mailto:jhill@bost.org) or 479-652-4553.**

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