

PRESS RELEASE

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YOU'RE INVITED! BLACK, WHITE & BLING GALA 2009

The Garner Mid-Day Rotary Club invites you to dress up and step out in style, for the good of Garner's children.

Dining, dancing and a diamond dip are just a few perks to be found at the first annual **Black, White & Bling Gala 2009**, set for Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., at the historic Rand-Bryan House.

The evening will also feature the chance to win \$2,500 cash, both live and silent auctions, live music by the Wells Family Band, and a DJ.

Classic cars lining the grounds outside the Rand-Bryan House, and sophisticated "strolling magic" by the renowned Michael Casey inside, will set the stage for an elegant evening.

Proceeds of this black-tie event will benefit the Backpack Buddies program, which supplies food to homeless children within the Garner school system, and to the Garner Mid-Day Rotary Club's scholarship programs for Garner youth.

"I'm a part of this because there is a huge problem in Garner — 12 percent of the 1,700 homeless children in Wake County Schools are here in Garner," says Julie Clark, immediate past president of the Garner Mid-Day Rotary Club and chair of the gala. "We need to raise awareness. We need to help these children, and make sure they're fed."

The gala is being held as part of Year of the Child, the club's 2009-2010 focus.

Thousands of families in Wake County are currently homeless or in danger of becoming so, oftentimes as a result of layoffs or home foreclosures. For many children, a free school lunch is the only food they regularly receive.

The Garner Mid-Day Rotary Club has partnered with local schools to support Backpack Buddies, which provides homeless and low-income children with a weekly backpack full of nutritious, child-friendly foods.

You can help.

“First and foremost, this is your opportunity to help homeless children, and support youth and education in the Garner community,” Clark says. “Then there’s the chance to win a beautiful diamond and \$2,500 in cash. Dining, dancing, classic cars — this will be unlike anything ever seen in Garner.

“**Black, White & Bling Gala 2009** will be *the* premiere event for this community,” Clark says. “Polish your shoes and bring out your best bling, and enjoy an evening with the Who’s Who of the Garner community, all for a great cause.”

Gala tickets go on sale Aug. 4; tickets are \$100 and include dinner for two and one chance per couple to win the diamond and the cash prize. For tickets or more information, call Clark at (919) 271-2618.