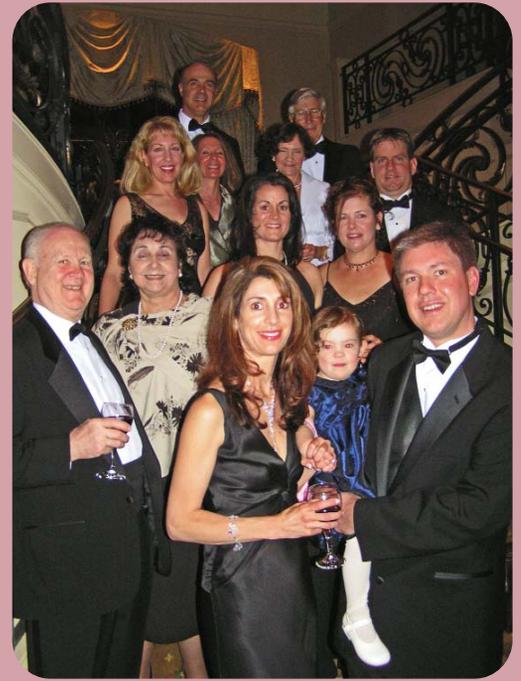




*Above: Sydney and Jeff Frazier.*

*Above right: Party goes peruse the more than 150 silent auction items. The event raised more than \$42,000 for the foundation.*



*Above: Michelle Pfeiffer and Andy Merrills with their daughter Anna, who is the inspiration for Anna's Angels. They are joined by family and friends who have been instrumental to the foundation's success.*

*Left: Live Auction winners include (l to r) Ashley Carson, Ken Powell, Sally Cox, Gary Kruse, Lisa Kruse, Keith Boswell, Doug Tirnbel, Caroline Paoletti and Jennifer Englehardt pose with WTVD News Anchor Steve Daniels.*

# Caryites Support Anna's Angels

*Written and Photographed By Jennifer H. Gilmore*

The 2nd Annual Anna's Angels Gala on April 2 drew more than 250 partygoers to Prestonwood Country Club's new grand ballroom in Cary for a night of food, spirits, silent and live auctions and plenty of dancing courtesy of local band The Funk Daddies. WTVD Eyewitness News 11 anchor Steve Daniels' lively auctioneering and a generous crowd and sponsors can be credited with raising more than \$42,000 for Down syndrome and leukemia research.

Anna's Angels was founded in November 2003 by Michelle Pfeiffer and Andy Merrills in honor of their middle child, Anna, who has Down syndrome. Anna, who is almost 4 years

old, also battled leukemia as a baby, an illness commonly found in Down syndrome children. Since its inception, Anna's Angels has raised more than \$90,000. The majority of the funds raised have been used to support research at Duke, most recently on a series of trials that found that cholinergic therapy was effective in improving language performance in adults and children with Down syndrome.

Michelle and Andy attributed the success of the event to the myriad sponsors, family and friends who helped plan or supported the event. For more information about Anna's Angels, go to [www.annas-angels.org](http://www.annas-angels.org).