



BBLF's Annual Ball Raised Record BGN 36,000

Sofia, 6 February 2015

The Seventh Annual Ball of the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum (BBLF) raised a record BGN 36,000 in favour of the prevention of breast cancer and taking children out of institutions. Over 120 guests, members, friends and supporters of the Forum, attended the elegant event on 5 February at Sofia Hotel Balkan.

This year, half of the funds raised will benefit Bulgaria's first large-scale programme for breast cancer screening to be implemented by Sofia Municipality. The other half of the proceeds will support the efforts of the For Our Children Foundation to take the last remaining children out of the St. Sofia institution.

Ms. Zoya Paunova, Deputy Chairperson of BBLF, urged participants, top managers of leading Bulgarian and international companies to again support worthy causes: "In 16 years we have built together a major and inspiring business organisation that is open to social issues".

The official guests of the evening included Ms. Daniela Vezieva, Deputy Minister of Economy, Mr. Doncho Barbalov, Deputy Mayor of Sofia. Ms. Malina Edreva, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Cultural Diversity with the Sofia Municipal Council and Ms. Ivanka Shalapatova For Our Children Foundation's Executive Director briefed guests on the two causes.

The stylish gala began with a harp performance courtesy of New Symphony Orchestra that was followed by a surprise, a specially prepared duet performance of Mr. Maxim Behar, BBLF Board member and 7-year-old Sara Gusheva that set the tone of the evening overflowing with music, good vibes and an air of generosity. It was echoed not only by guests who

enthusiastically bid for the fantastic charity auction and raffle lots. Jazz performer Vasil Petrov once again donated his fee and at the end of the night singer and actress Militsa Gladnishka followed his suit.

The fun and vigorous auction's undisputed treasure were tennis star Grigor Dimitrov's jersey, shorts and sneakers from Brisbane and Acapulco 2014 tournaments. There was some vigorous bidding also for works of prominent Bulgarian artists Pencho Balkanski, Marin Georgiev Ustagenov and Atanas Neykov, a painting from President Rosen Plevneliev's collection, a photo edition of Istoriya Slavyanobalgarska, a team building voucher for Boulderland and a Dale Carnegie training, a Grand Prix Formula 1 entry ticket in Budapest, a signed autograph of Cristiano Ronaldo, a bicycle and dozens of attractive objects. Auctioneers were Igor Markovski from Apollo and Mercury auction house and Militsa Gladnishka.

Photos

Photo 1 – Auctioneer Igor Markovski and BBLF Deputy Chairperson Zoya Paunova

Photo 2 – The auction's top lot: Grigor Dimitrov's jersey and shorts

Photography by Galia Yotova

The BBLF causes were supported by many companies and individuals who provided their own items, products and services to the charity auction and raffle: AIMS Human Capital and Dale Carnegie Training; Anita Tarasevich; Austrian Airlines; Bra Clinic; Coca Cola; Creative Solutions Ltd; Deloitte Bulgaria; Dobromir Minkov, Stanton Chase; The Embassy of Finland in Sofia; The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Sofia; For Our Children Foundation; George Ruitchev, BBLF Executive Director; Grand Hotel Sofia; Green Life SKI & SPA Resort Bansko; Grigor Dimitrov; H.E.Helena Pilsas Ahlin, Swedish Ambassador to Bulgaria; Hilton Sofia Hotel; Indesit Bulgaria; Loran Art Gallery; Maxim Behar, M3 Communications Group; M3 College; Nikolay Doynov, Association of Community Centres; Pernod Ricard Bulgaria; RIU Pravets Resort SPA & Golf; Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria; Rubaiyat Restaurant NDK, Sofia; Shell Bulgaria; Sofia Hotel Balkan; TNT Bulgaria; Vesela Ilieva, Unique Estates; Walltopia.

Media partners of the Seventh Annual Ball BBLF were the Bulgarian National Television, Bulgarian National Radio, Bulgaria on Air Media Group and Manager magazine.

