



Brian and Aimee Greenfield with Kandy and John Gerace (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Ed and Megan McNamara (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Mike Graley and Maria Krale (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Monica Robbins and Jon Petz (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Heidi Tracy, Clara and David Taliak (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Chefs Rocco Whalen, Shawn Cline, Joe Dubbs and Tony Dee (*Sunflower Soiree*)



Kelly Roggenburk, Betsy Kai Mattimore and Ginger Souk

Children's Glioma Cancer Foundation "Sunflower Soiree"

The Sunflower Soiree to benefit Prayers From Maria, Children's Glioma Cancer Foundation, was attended by 300 supporters at Market on Linda Street in Rocky River. John Owen, the restaurant's owner, served as an invaluable event partner, and Kandy Gerace was the remarkable returning chairlady.

Clara Legeay and Paige Taliak chaired the auctions and two raffles. The wide selection of items and packages were predominantly

donated by West Side businesses, just as the attendees were West Siders — and they were there because they care. You can "feel the love" at this event. That feeling starts with Megan and Ed McNamara, who started the Foundation in memory of their seven-year-old daughter, Maria, who died of the terminal brain tumor, known as a glioma.

Monica Robbins was mistress of ceremonies, with Jon Petz as her co-host. Four fea-

tured chefs created a gourmet dining experience! They were Shawn Cline, the corporate executive chef of the five Hospitality Restaurants; Anthony Dee, returning from working in the British Virgin Islands and currently scouting a location in Columbus; Joseph Dubbs, chef at The Ironwood Café in Westlake; and Rocco Whalen of the acclaimed Tremont eatery, Fahrenheit.

The Sunflower Soiree was the first part of

a two-day fundraiser. Unc day festival on Linda Street estimated at 2,000 people. ferent food vendors, 30 w eries represented. More raised for research into deadly tumors that are cause of cancer deaths. STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY R. MERK