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More than \$10,000 raised *Memorial benefit dinner, auction for art teacher a success, organizers say*

By **KENNETH HART**
The Independent

ASHLAND A benefit dinner and art auction held Tuesday in memory of an elementary school art teacher killed a house fire on Christmas Eve raised more than \$10,000, according to its chief organizer.

"It definitely exceeded my expectations," said Robin Greene, a sixth-grade teacher at Oakview Elementary, one of two schools where Lisa Price taught art and where the event was held.

At last count, the memorial benefit dinner and art auction for Price had raised \$10,600 and the money was still coming in, Greene said.

The proceeds will be evenly divided between Price's family and a scholarship fund that will be established in Price's memory with the Foundation for the Tri-State Community Inc., Greene said.

Eligibility guidelines for the scholarship

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Auction

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are still being worked out. Plans call for the first one to be awarded to a Paul G. Blazer High School senior at the end of the next school year, Greene said.

"I'd like to continue it at least until my current group of sixth-graders are seniors," she said.

About 250 attended Tuesday's auction, which was spon-

sored by the Oakview PTO and catered by Outback Steakhouse, which donated all of the food.

According to Greene, the item that fetched the highest price was a pony figurine called "The Quarter Horse" that was painted by Kathy Morawski, one of the artists from The Trail of the Painted Ponies, a public art project with which Price was involved.

"The big items were anything to do with horses," she said.

The six horses donated by The Trail of the Painted Ponies

artists sold for a total of \$1,215, while seven ponies painted by Oakview students brought in a cumulative \$980, Greene said. One of the figurines painted by students, known as the "Aloha Pony," sold for \$225.

The art auction was an outgrowth of a lesson Greene taught her students on The Trail of the Painted Ponies following the holiday break, during the period when Price normally would have taught art class. That led to the students corresponding to the artists involved with the project.

Price, who also taught art at Crabbe Elementary, was killed when her family's home on Coal Branch Road in rural Greenup County caught fire early the morning of Dec. 24. She had just turned 35 the previous day.

One of Price's original paintings was given away as a door prize Tuesday. Students also presented a framed print of one of her paintings to her brother, Rayburn Murphy.

Greene said the art auction probably would become an annual event, although not on

nearly as large of a scale as the initial one.

"I feel like that would tax the community too much," she said.

Anyone who would still like to make a donation in Price's memory may still do so by sending a check payable to the Lisa Price Memorial Fund to the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Greene said.

Greene said she knew in her heart that Price would have appreciated the tribute paid to her by her students and colleagues. In fact, she said she re-

ceived what she took as a sign of her gratitude on her way to work Wednesday morning.

As she was coming into Ashland, Greene said she was met by a spectacular sunrise that filled the sky with shades of blue, purple and pink — hues that Price was known for using in her artwork.

"I know that that was her saying thanks," she said, fighting back tears.

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