

2016



## DC's Dancing Stars Gala Coverage Report





## **WUSA9 's reporter Mikea Turner competes in DC's Dancing Stars in honor of friend's mother with ALS**

**Our girl Mikea Turner takes a different stage in hopes to help ALS charity!**

WASHINGTON, D.C.- DC's Dancing Stars Gala is back for another year giving local celebrities a chance to compete for a \$10,000 grand prize that will go to a charity of their choice. WUSA9's Morning Reporter Mikea Turner is competing!



Markette and Chris talk with WUSA 9's very own Mikea Turner about the DC dance competition for charity.

The fundraising event is modeled after ABC's hit TV show Dancing with the Stars. Each contender is paired up with a professional partner and learns a solid dance routine for the competition that will take place on November 5, 2016 at the Sheraton Tysons Hotel in Virginia. Mikea and her professional dance partner, Javier Buentello of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Fairfax, VA, performed on Great Day Washington Thursday morning.

Maria Coakley David and Jim David co-chair the gala. Over the last two years, \$350,000 has been raised through the contestants and donated to local charities. The grand prize winner, which is based on amount of donations and a great dance performance, gets \$10,000 to donate to a charity of their own. The winner also receives a mirror ball trophy. Turner hopes to secure the win so she can donate the prize money to the ALS Association DC/MD/VA Chapter in honor of her best friend whose mother was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, last summer. There is no cure.

"This is a rare and amazing opportunity for me to help make a difference, but I can't do this without the community's help," Turner said. Turner's commitment to dancing for the cause requires her to secure auction items, online votes via donations on DC's Dancing Stars Gala website and sponsorships. Her pool of donations has a lot of room to grow.

If you're interested in contributing, you can vote for Turner under 'Celebrity Dancers' on the gala's website here. The proceeds go to charities. Guest judges include 'Bachelor' Alum Chris Bukowski and others.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-washington/wusa9-s-reporter-mikea-turner-competes-in-dcs-dancing-stars-in-honor-of-friends-mother-with-als/335745493>



## **Chris Bukowski judges Autria's dancing skills ahead of DC's Dancing Stars Gala**



*Chris Bukowski previewed this weekend's DC Dancing Stars Gala. (ABC7)*

**WASHINGTON (ABC7) — This Saturday is DC's third annual Dancing Stars Gala, bringing together local personalities and celebrity judges all in the name of charity. Our very own Jummy Olabanji took part in the festivities last year and now Autria Godfrey is putting on her dancing shoes with Jason Rushing of Fred Astaire Dance Studio. Watch for a sampling of Autria's dancing skills!**

<http://wjla.com/features/good-morning-washington/chris-bukowski-judges-autrias-dancing-skills-ahead-of-dcs-dancing-stars-gala>

# McLean Patch

## DC Celebrities, Corporate Executives to Take to Stage in Support of Local Charities

**The third, annual DCs Dancing Stars Gala takes place Saturday, Nov. 5.**

By Chloe Morales, Patch Staff | Nov 1, 2016 3:16 pm ET



The third annual DCs Dancing Stars Gala takes place on Saturday, November 5th at the Sheraton Tyson's Corner, with 11 local celebrities facing off for the DCs Dancing Champion Trophy in support of area non-profits. The event has donated \$350,000 to their charity partners over the past two years, and expects to eclipse the half-million dollar mark with this year's funds.

This year's line-up of Celebrity Dancers set to appear include: spokeswoman for Jim Koons Automotive Group, Krystal Koons; Celebrity hairstylist and native Washingtonian Peggy Ioakim; Global Art Advisor Marsha Ralls; Emmy Award winning news anchor Autria Godfrey of Good Morning Washington; former contestant on Discovery Channel's *Naked and Afraid: Costa Rica*, and former Gala Judge Shane Lewis; Oprah Winfrey's makeup artist Derrick Rutledge and former wide receiver for the Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles, Darnerien McCants. They will be joined by Corporate Challenge winner Lola Reinsch in the competition for the trophy and the chance to donate \$10,000 to the charity of their choice. The Gala will also introduce the Corporate Challenge Participants competing for a chance to win \$5,000 for the charity of their choice.

The starpower extends to the event judges and emcees which features Chelsie Hightower, best known as a dancer, partner, trainer and choreographer for ABC's hit show *Dancing with the Stars*, Comcast MidAtlantic's Julie Donaldson, who emceed the 2015 Gala, and Bachelor alum Chris Bukowski. 2015 Celebrity Dancer and Judges' choice winner Larry Miller, of WUSA9, will co-emcee the gala with Fox5's Laura Evans.

DC's Dancing Stars gala brings together members of the community to generate thousands of dollars to support local charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University, Code of Support Foundation, Jennifer Bush Lawson Foundation and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation.

<https://patch.com/virginia/tysonscorner/dc-celebrities-corporate-executives-take-stage-support-local-charities>

## DC's Dancing Stars Gala brings in record donations

By Bonnie Stephens Special to the Fairfax County Times



Dancers at DC's Dancing Stars Gala enjoy the limelight

BONNIE STEPHENS/FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The lighting was sparkling, the mood was effervescent, the auction was spirited and the talent was on-point. The third annual DC's Dancing Stars Charity Gala took place on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Sheraton Tysons Corner, hosting 500 guests and raising record-level donations. Eleven local celebrities faced off for the DC's Dancing Stars Champion Trophy in support of area nonprofits. The event has donated \$350,000 to its charity partners over the past two years, and this year alone raised over \$300,000, raising their cumulative total to the half-million dollar mark. A record crowd took in some beautiful dance routines in the very fierce competition, and enjoyed the finale of confetti cannons when the winner was announced.

The winner of the Mirror Ball Trophy and \$10,000 for her charity was celebrity dancer and spokeswoman for Jim Koons Automotive Group, Krystal Koons, who raised \$115,320 in cash and sponsorships from over 100 donors. Global Art Advisor Marsha Ralls was the runner-up, winning \$5,000 for the charity of her choice. The Corporate Challenge winner was Kristy Kaufmann, Executive Director of Code of Support Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the families of service men and women. Kaufmann also won \$5,000 for the charity of her choice. Former Washington Redskin, Darnerien McCants, and his partner Katherine Hayes, won the Judges' Choice Award for their footwork to Michael Jackson's "Bad."

The star power extended to the event judges, and a last-minute illness led to a new guest judge, the Honorable Senator Bob Dole, 93, a World War II veteran who charmed the audience, and received a standing ovation after his speech about charities helping military men and women. The former Senator joined Chelsie Hightower, best known as a dancer, partner, trainer and choreographer for ABC's hit show "Dancing with the Stars," and Comcast MidAtlantic's Julie Donaldson, who was the master of ceremonies at the 2015 Gala. This year's masters of ceremonies were 2015 Celebrity Dancer and Judges' Choice winner Larry Miller, of WUSA9, and Fox5's Laura Evans.

DC's Dancing Stars annual gala brings together members of the community to generate thousands of dollars to support local charities, including The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Marymount University, Code of Support Foundation, Jennifer Bush Lawson Foundation, and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation.

[http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/dc-s-dancing-stars-gala-brings-in-record-donations/article\\_90479356-a781-11e6-84a4-1b6446d9ec11.html](http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/dc-s-dancing-stars-gala-brings-in-record-donations/article_90479356-a781-11e6-84a4-1b6446d9ec11.html)



## DC's Dancing Stars Gala Raises More Than \$300K For Local Charities

**Jim Koons Automotive Group's Krystal Koons took first prize, raising \$115,320 in cash and sponsorships from more than 100 donors.**

By Patch Staff (Patch National Staff) - Updated November 8, 2016 3:27 pm ET



Washington, D.C. (November 8, 2016) – On Saturday, November 5, the third annual DC's Dancing Stars Gala raised more than \$300,000 for local charities. The event was hosted by Maria Coakley David and Jim David at the Sheraton Tyson's Corner and featured 11 local Celebrities and 4 Corporate Challenge Dancers who have spent the past several months training for Saturday night's performance. The winner of the Mirror Ball Trophy and \$10,000 for her charity was Krystal Koons, spokeswoman for Jim Koons Automotive Group, who raised \$115,320 in cash and sponsorships from more than 100 donors.

Global Art Advisor Marsha Ralls was the runner-up winning \$5,000 for the charity of her choice. Kristy Kaufmann, executive director of Code of Support Foundation, was the winner of the Corporate Challenge. The Corporate Challenge winner was determined in the same way as the overall winner: 60% Judges Scores and 40% Funds Raised. Kristy raised over \$40,000 and had one of the top scoring performances. Kaufman won \$5,000 for the charity of her choice.

“This year’s event was a huge success. We were thrilled to raise our largest amount since the event’s inception in 2014, which brings our three-year total to more than \$650,000 for worthy charities in the Washington, D.C. area,” said Maria Coakley David, CEO of C.J. Coakley Company and co-chair of DCs Dancing Stars Gala. “I am so proud of all our dancers – Celebrities and Corporate Challenge participants – who performed some fabulous dance routines Friday night. My husband and I are avid dancers, and we love working with others to share the joy of dancing.”

<https://patch.com/virginia/tysonscorner/dc-s-dancing-stars-gala-raises-more-300-000-local-charities>



# WASHINGTON

## MAGAZINE



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#### DC DANCING STARS

SHERATON, TYSON'S CORNER

(Photos by Tony Powell)

The third annual gala gave local celebrities an opportunity to come up with unique dance routines and compete for a grand prize of \$10,000 to be donated to the charity of their choice. **Krystal Koons** of Virginia's Jim Koons Automotive Group walked away a winner with her rumba/cha cha performance.

4. Julie Donaldson, Bob Dole and Chelsea Hightower

5. Dancers

6. Event Chairs Jim David and Maria Coakley David



WASHINGTON LIFE | APRIL 2017 | [washingtonlife.com](http://washingtonlife.com)



## Krystal Koons in the DC's Dancing Stars Gala



DC's Dancing Stars Gala is a fundraising event full of all the fun, glitz and glamour of the hit TV show Dancing with the Stars! Local DC Celebrities will learn a polished choreographed routine and perform with a professional partner at the Gala in a competition mirroring the television show. A panel of celebrity judges along with the audience will select the winner who will win the coveted mirror ball trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of their choice.

This year, Krystal Koons hopes to raise \$50,000 to be shared by these worthy causes: [The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society](#), [Code of Support Foundation](#), [Marymount University](#), [The Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation](#), and [Operation Renewed Hope Foundation](#).

Follow our [Facebook](#) page for updates on Krystal's dance training progress!  
Click DONATE TODAY to help Krystal reach her fundraising goal!

<https://www.koons.com/custom/dc-s-dancing-stars-gala.htm>



# The Jennifer Bush-Lawson

## FOUNDATION

### **JENNIFER BUSH-LAWSON FOUNDATION NAMED AS BENEFICIARY OF DC'S DANCING STARS GALA**

**ARLINGTON | August 1, 2016 –**

The Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation is excited to announce that JB-LF Founder Neal Lawson will be lacing up his dancing shoes to raise money for healthy moms and healthy babies at this year's DCs Dancing Stars Gala! If you are as excited to see Neal dance as we are, you can vote for him with your donations by [clicking here!](#)

Always up for a challenge and learning a new skill, Neal will be trying to raise the most money among local corporate executives and community leaders for the chance to dance as a celebrity in the show on November 5th and raise money and awareness for the Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation!! The JB-LF is very proud to be a beneficiary of this fun-filled event!



Held this year on November 5th at the Sheraton Tyson's Hotel, DC's Dancing Stars Gala is a fundraising event full of all the fun, glitz and glamour of the hit TV show Dancing with the Stars. Local DC Celebrities and Corporate Challenge winners learn polished choreographed routines and perform with a professional partner at the Gala in a competition mirroring the television show. A panel of celebrity judges along with the audience selects the winner who will win the coveted mirror ball trophy and \$10,000 for the charity of their choice. The gala includes a VIP cocktail reception, a sit down gourmet dinner, the competition, live and silent auctions, professional performances, and a live band.

GO Neal!!

<http://jenniferbushlawsonfoundation.org/the-jb-lf-named-as-beneficiary-of-dcs-dancing-stars-gala/>