

Neighbors/Health



Photo courtesy of High Point Communications

Tom and Deanna Missert, founders of Devon Nicole's House, accept a donation of more than \$51,000 from Suzanne Mooney, right, of Jason's Place during the second annual Valentine's fund-raiser cruise for Devon Nicole's House.

Monday, March 11, 2002

Revelers give from the heart

LONDONDERRY – The second annual Devon Nicole's House Valentine's cruise brought revelers and romantics out in support of Devon Nicole's House, raising more than \$70,000 to help a New Hampshire family build a home away from home for parents whose children are awaiting cardiac care, organ donations or are in a neonatal intensive care unit in any Boston-area hospital.

"The second annual Odyssey dinner cruise was an amazing, high-energy milestone for Devon Nicole's House," said Thomas **Missert**, who founded Devon Nicole's House with his wife Deanna in memory of their daughter.

"We were able to make two major announcements to our supporters. The first was the donation of \$51,203 that was generously given to us by Jason's Place. And second, we are in negotiations with a group that has offered us a site for Devon Nicole's House."

Devon Nicole's House is named after Devon Nicole **Missert**, who died after five days because of birth complications. **Missert** said the recent negotiations for a site could mean the opening of Devon Nicole's house as early as August.

"But the battle isn't over," said **Missert**. "Before we can open our doors, we have to be able to show community and financial support for Devon Nicole's House." **Missert** said community and business commitments are needed now more than ever to make their dream a reality.

The Valentine's cruise fund-raiser holds a special significance for the **Misserts**, who recognize Valentine's Day as a way to mark the donation of two of Devon Nicole's heart valves to two newborn children staying in Boston hospitals awaiting the life-saving operations. The cruise also marked the culmination of Congenital Heart Disease Awareness week.

The **Misserts** extend their thanks to the many sponsors and supporters who made the cruise fund-raiser possible. For more information or to make a contribution, visit www.devonshouse.org or write to Devon Nicole's House, P.O. Box 901, Londonderry, NH 03053.



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