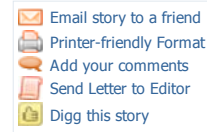


● **Opinions**

# Best Best of Best

(March 29, 08): This year's VillageSoup/Knox County Times Best of the Best Gala is the talk of the town. Everywhere we turn people are talking about how much they enjoyed this year's fundraiser hosted by Village NetMedia and the Samoset Resort.



In our minds, too, it was the best Best of the Best.

There was a different feel to the 2008 gala — busier, more excitement, more of a social aspect versus a business atmosphere. The event draws together business people from bankers to plumbers and attracts individuals from all walks of life.

It's a time to socialize, sample foods, and learn about the businesses and products available in our community. And the best part is: it raises money for a very worthy cause — United Mid-Coast Charities. In five years, the proceeds raised by the gala have totaled well over \$10,000.

The event is also fun.

The Best of the Best contest gives Knox County residents a chance to vote for their favorite businesses and individuals in 100 categories.

This year was the fifth annual VillageSoup/Knox County Times Best of the Best Gala. In that short time, the number of vendors participating in the event has more than doubled to 65.

And an estimated 600 people made their way through this year's Best of the Best event. The gala, which included free food, free demonstrations and live music, was held at the Samoset in the Knox County Ballroom and State of Maine Hall.

People also seemed to like the new silent auction, which offered close to 100 items donated by area businesses.

One hundred percent of the donated funds given to United Mid-Coast Charities is distributed to 60 organizations, from Freedom Riders to the Community School, from Meals on Wheels to the Waldo County YMCA.

The success of the Best of the Best Gala depends on the people who show up year after year to support it.

We thank each and every one of them for their generosity and we hope they will spread the word so that next year will be the very best yet.

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