



# WEST BOCA FORUM

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## Boca West grants \$1M to children's charities

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The Boca West Community Charitable Foundation's annual golf challenge and concert helped raise the \$1 million to give to 23 children's charities for the programs it supports.

Foundation chairman Arthur Adler made the announcement from the stage before the annual "Concert for the Children" April 5 on the Boca West Country Club's grounds.

"I love every one of 1,666 people here tonight," who bought a \$175 ticket, Adler said before the show.

The concert alone raised \$350,000.

Patti LaBelle performed with her backup singers and band, with The Atlantic City Boys opening at the seated concert under the stars at the Akoya Amphitheatre. Boca West's annual \$200,000 golf challenge and awards presentations took place April 4. They also sold raffle tickets and welcomed donations, so the \$1 million was raised since October, foundation vice chairman Howard Boilen said after the show.

**SINGER SPOTLIGHT** Patti LaBelle sings at Concert for the Children, put on by the Boca West Community Charitable Foundation for the 21 children's charities they support. See more photos on page 12.

STAFF PHOTO/ORIT BEN-EZZER

The original concert performer was to be singer Natalie Cole, who died last December. Her younger twin sisters Timolin and Casey Cole run Nat King Cole Generation Hope:

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Keeping the Music Alive, one of the foundation charities. They announced a \$10,000 grant from the foundation and Lynn Conservatory of Music students to mentor

and instruct elementary school-age children. Both Lynn and Generation Hope conduct a week-long summer camp for student string players.

"Boca West leads the way to keep the arts live," said the conservatory

dean, Jon Robertson.

Most of the concert audience was made up of patrons who live in Boca West, but some came from outside the community to support the cause.

"It's nice to be part of something that helps chil-

dren. That's what this community is all about," said Peter Baronoff, a former Boca deputy mayor who now heads up Promise Healthcare and Success Healthcare. He and his wife, Carmel, rode one of the trolleys Boca West

ran from their parking garage to the concert site.

Ellen Vahab was in the crowd as the founder and director of the Youth Activity Center after-school program in West Boca. They sold 26 tickets and get to keep all the money,

she said.

"I've worked with kids a lot, and the center helps parents who work hard," said Dr. Marc Finkelstein, who lives in Boca West.

He is about to be asked to join the YAC board, Vahab said.