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The Rev. Dennis Blaney, left, poses with Aggie and Greg Grimmer at the 2010 Share Foundation Gala in Munster. Greg Grimmer served on the board of directors of Share Foundation for many years and was instrumental in developing the master plan for Sharing Meadows. Grimmer Construction underwrote the cost of the table centerpieces for the gala.

INSIGHT: Share Foundation gala best attended ever

The first snow of the season fell at Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie while committee members prepared the Center for Visual & Performing Arts in Munster for the 16th annual Share Our Dreams Gala in November.

The gala was dedicated to Maryann Chevigny, a longtime committee member and supporter who died in October. Her insights and energy were missed, but it was nice to have her children as guests.

According to Kathleen Kelly, Share executive director, more than 220 people, one of the largest groups ever, attended the elegant evening of cocktails, fine dining and dancing to the sounds of Tom Milos' big band.

Committee member Nancy LoDuca, owner of Giovanni's in Munster, donated the wine and tiramisu dessert. Greg and Aggie Grimmer, of Grimmer Construction in Highland, underwrote the cost of the table centerpieces created by Merrillville Florists, and Dixon Florists provided a long-stemmed white rose for each woman.

Kudos to this year's committee that worked so hard to make the evening special: Joyce Choncoff, Milford Christenson, Joan Collins, Judy Gresko (the talented woman who made all the breathtaking baskets), Trish Hayduk, Agnes Lasics, Nancy LoDuca, Maryann Markovich, Pat Ricciardi, Rani Roche, Janice Speaks and Carol Ann Surufka.

Table sponsors included Milford Christenson, of Christenson Chevrolet in Highland, two silver tables of guests, the James W. Ryan family, three platinum tables; and Marcia Forcey, a platinum table in memory of her husband, Chuck.

Fran and Ed Merion celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary with family and friends at three tables, and he entertained guests by singing a love song to his bride. Other table sponsors included Citizens Financial Bank, Munster; William and Anne Franz; Great Lakes Catering, Michigan City; Globe-Star, Chesterton; and St. Catherine Hospital, East Chicago.

For a list of all monetary donors, visit my blog at <http://www.my.nwi.com/insight> Gifts that keep on giving. As the calendar year comes to an end and you are thinking about the income taxes due, consider a donation to Share Foundation (sharefoundation.org) and the individuals who benefit from the programs at Sharing Meadows. It is a tax-exempt organization, so your donation is a tax advantage.