



Lorraine Johnson, former Belle of the Ball, on the dance floor



CEFN's volunteers and interns pose for the camera



Philly All-Star Band performs at the Senior Gala Fundraiser

CEFN's Blast From the Past – A Smashing Success!

Greetings, CEFN's wonderful and precious friends and supporters! I trust that you are enjoying this beautiful spring weather. I am happy to report that CEFN's first fundraiser of the year, the **9th Annual Healthy Living Senior Gala Fundraiser**, was a smashing success! We are pleased to announce that we had another sold-out event with over 600 older adults in attendance. Due to the success of this amazing Senior Gala Fundraiser, I am also pleased to announce that we reserved 60 tables for **CEFN's 4th Annual Senior Harvest Ball Fundraiser**, which will be on **Friday, October 4**. Due to an overwhelming response to attend this fundraiser, we have already developed a waiting list and will have to strongly consider renting out additional space at the Hilton Hotel. For ticket information, please contact **Sherry Hill** at **215-858-4957**, email us at cefnphila@gmail.com, or visit www.cefn.org.

Unlike CEFN's annual spring Senior Gala Fundraiser, CEFN's fall Senior Harvest Ball is slightly different. It is a formal event. The **Senior Harvest Ball** theme will be **Safari Royal**. Please feel free to dress in Afrocentric attire. As always, **CEFN** will have a delicious catered meal, live entertainment, dancing, a DJ, an MC, health and wellness vendors, raffle prizes, giveaways, and a special feature—**the crowning of the Belle of the Ball and the Lord Harvest**. The main criteria for selecting the Belle of the Ball and the Lord Harvest are that contestants should be leaders in their community, have a positive outlook on life despite overcoming major adversities, and inspire others. **Ms. Jeannie Bryant** and **Mr. Joseph Littlejohn** were the Belle of the Ball and the Lord Harvest in 2023, and they will pass their crowns to the contestants for 2024. Please see the flyer on **page 4** for more information.

"Amazing" was the typical response from our precious older adults who attended the Senior Gala Fundraiser on April 5. For more details and photos from the event, **please see pages 2 and 3**.

CEFN is also happy to announce the relaunching of its **Get Fit and Healthy Eating Program** in late spring. Please share with your senior center, senior church ministry, and senior affordable housing. For more information, contact **Sherry Hill** at **215-858-4957**. In addition, we would like for you to save the date for **CEFN's Healthy Living Senior Gala Fundraiser on April 4, 2025**. More details will follow soon.

CEFN thanks all of our sponsors, vendors, and community partners—without their financial support, this fundraiser would not be possible! Special thanks to our new and returning volunteers and interns who are committed and dedicated to helping make the fundraiser a huge success!

Finally, we would like to extend special thanks to our photographer Theresa Rivers, videographer Andrew Hoffman, and Gary Cowlay, our DJ and photo booth photographer, for their outstanding photos and video clips. To view the photos and video clips from the Senior Gala, please visit CEFN's website, www.cefn.org.

Peace and Blessings,
Sherry Hill



Attendees enjoy themselves line dancing



Vaughn Coleman poses with the Money Tree winner and Sherry Hill



Attendees celebrate April birthdays with line dancing

A Blast From the Past – A Day To Remember!

CEFN, in partnership with valuable sponsors/vendors, hosted a stunning and spectacular **9th Annual Senior Gala Fundraiser** on **Friday, April 5, 2024**. Over 600 seniors joined us for this exhilarating event, which was held at Philadelphia’s Hilton Hotel on City Avenue in Philadelphia, PA. According to the attendees’ evaluations, the vast majority rated the overall event between excellent and good.

The live entertainment was breathtaking. Thanks to DJ **Gary Cowlay Jr.**, host and comedian **Malcolm Hill**, dance instructor **Dana Millwood**, **Barbara James**, and the **Philly All-Star Band**, we were able to give our precious older adults an afternoon of fantastic performances that were unforgettable. DJ Gary did an excellent job providing lively music and supplying the inflatable photo booth. Malcolm Hill provided hilarious and upbeat commentary. Dana Millwood gave a lively and energetic dance demonstration. Barbara James delivered a wonderful and touching monologue. And lastly, the Philly All-Stars gave a performance that got even attendees with canes up on their feet. Their beautiful performances filled the ballroom with endless laughter and joy.

CEFN offered a catered meal at this event. The Hilton Hotel staff served the tables with savory and delicious dishes, such as roasted chicken, cheesecake, and a house salad. Each table was also decorated with a vibrant centerpiece that reflected the cheerful atmosphere of the event. CEFN’s stellar volunteers did an outstanding job directing attendees to their tables.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the help of CEFN’s event coordinator **Alisha Willis** and all of our precious volunteers and interns. We would also like to extend our gratitude to videographer **Andrew Hoffman** and photographer **Theresa Rivers** for capturing the memorable moments that our seniors had, which truly enhanced the experience. We were happy to receive such vibrant feedback from our attendees. One participant remarked that the event was “lively, inspirational, fun, and beautiful.” Another attendee stated, “This is my first time attending and I will be returning!”

In continuing our tradition of hosting Senior Gala Fundraisers, CEFN will be hosting our **4th Annual Senior Harvest Ball Fundraiser** on **Friday, October 4, 2024**. It will be a **Safari Royal** event with African attire and will take place at the **Hilton Hotel** on 4200 City Avenue. This event will feature live entertainment, a DJ, health and wellness vendors, giveaways, and so much more! Due to venue capacity, this event is currently **sold out**. Please reach out to **Sherry Hill** at **215-858-4957** or email cefnphila@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our **waiting list** for this event. Again, we thank you for your attendance and participation at this event. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming fundraiser on October 4th!

All the best,

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Event and Marketing Management Coordinator

SENIOR GALA FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHTS



Photos by Theresa Rivers

