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## Dancing with the Stars

Elwood Staffing CEO Mark Elwood and Clifty Creek Elementary Principal Diane Clancy boogie to the Bee Gees tune "You Should Be Dancing," Saturday during the Dancing with the Stars Columbus Style fundraiser at Holiday Inn.

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## 'Stars' dance night away to raise funds

By BRITTANY HART

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Ben Wagner and Ashley Bear snapped their fingers and swiveled their hips to Michael Jackson's "Beat It" Saturday night at Dancing With the Stars Columbus Style.

The second annual fundraiser drew hundreds of spectators and raked in \$50,000 for Children, Inc. and Family School Partners.

"It's for the children," said Bartholomew County prosecutor Bill Nash, who also informed the audience he never danced a day in his life.

In the dimly lit ballroom of Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Nash was one of eight community leaders who served as the stars dancing with eight local dance instructors.

Columbus firefighter and "Biggest Loser" reality show contestant Allen Smith busted a move and dropped to the dance floor for some push-ups during his number with Sonya Denney.

Mayor Fred Armstrong glided gracefully across the dance floor with Charlotte Battin, QMIX's Dawn Andrews and Don Kingen grooved to "Car Wash" and Dr. Darryl Tannenbaum skillfully twirled Jean Kingen.

The crowd excitedly waved star-shaped signs and blew horns for the swing dance of Elwood Staffing chief executive officer Mark Elwood and Diane Clancy.

Sue Anne Lee and Melissa Smith were among a large, loud cheering section for Nash, who tangoed with Ronda Byers to "Por Una Cabeza."

"He's nervous. He's taking it very seriously," Smith said about her boss.

### Just for fun

Most couples practiced once



### Dance winners

**First place:** Mark Elwood and Diane Clancy.

**Second place:** Tony Moravec and Martha Richards.

**Third place:** Bill Nash and Ronda Byers.

a week for three months to prep for the show.

"He wasn't a natural," said Martha Richards about dance partner Tony Moravec, owner of Zaharakos. "He was fun, though."

And the fun was what counted at the event, as the audience roared when Moravec, in a black top hat and tux with tails, dipped Richards and lifted her into the air during Frank Sinatra's "You're Easy to Dance With."

"What a great fundraiser," Moravec said. "I'm very surprised at the unbelievable turnout, but rightfully so for these great community organizations."

For a dollar per vote, spectators cast ballots for their favorite dance pair.

The night also featured a dance spoof by Jeff Backmeyer, Gene Hack, John Johnson, Chad Phillips, Bob Pittman, Donnie Ritzline, Chris Smith, Mike Thomasson and David

Westenberger, outfitted in white tutus.

A '70s disco dance was performed by Sheryl Nulph, Samantha Harpring, Diane Doup, Lyn Morgan, Cindy Frey, Tracy Souza, Paige Harden, Janie Gordon, Chrissy Alspaugh and Dawn Hawk.

Audience members stepped onto the dance floor to show off their moves following the performances.

Dances with community leaders from last year's Dancing With the Stars Columbus Style, winner Jeff Beck and performer Buck Ritz, also were auctioned off.

Jacque Douglas, executive director of Family School Partners, said she was overwhelmed by the large turnout.

"This investment will benefit (the children) and the community," she said.

Family School Partners provides free home visitations to teach parents of preschool-aged children skills to become their child's first and most important teachers.

Children, Inc. is a licensed child care program providing full- and part-time care and before- and after-school programs for toddlers through school-age children.