

BROWARD ALBUM

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FANCY JEANS GALA HELPS PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS

Snazzy denim was on display when more than 700 guests gathered at Passion Nightclub near Hollywood for the annual Fancy Jeans party benefiting the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation. Florida Panthers Dancers greeted partygoers as they arrived, and Stanley the Mascot drew attention and admiration as one of the best dancers on the floor. Stilt walkers, hanging aerial silk performers and silhouette dancers produced a carnival-like atmosphere.

A surprise performance by the 1970s and '80s hip-hop group Sugar Hill Gang rocked the house, and Latin pop star **Shakira**

appeared on giant screens in a video dedicated to **Melissa Gomez**, this year's Fancy Jeans child honoree. Melissa, who is fighting leukemia, dreamed of meeting Shakira, and since the singer couldn't be there in person, she sent the video from Barcelona. Melissa also received a second wish: a family vacation package at Disney World.

Because of Melissa's fragile condition and frequent hospitalizations, her mother had to quit her job to become a full-time caregiver. Her father is a self-employed cab driver who has had a limited income during the past year. As it does with other childhood cancer patients,



Sandra Muvdi, founder and president of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, Kevin Blair, Grille 401, and Ana Vento.

JJCCF has been providing financial assistance covering some of the family's basic needs such as electricity, water, phone, car, groceries and gas.

Guests at Passion, located on the grounds of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, visited open bars courtesy of Premier Beverage and grabbed tasty bites at food stations provided by Grille 401, the Hard Rock Café, Rice & Dough, Roho Kitchen, LIME, Hooters and Wanda's Sweet

Breads. The evening included a silent auction offering vacation packages to Atlantis, Bahamas; Holland America and MSC cruises; a weekend in New York City; a ride on the Goodyear blimp; and a weekend at the Cartagena Hilton. **Angela Salter** and **Terrance Smalley** snagged first place in a Best Dressed contest, and **Jack Chomey** won the raffle prize: a 2013 Fiat. The event earned about \$167,000 for JJCCF.



Angela Salter, Magali, Salaza, Anne Reinstein, Lima Auclair and Cindy Eisen at the Jessica June party.

The Miami Herald



Denise Gomez and Melissa Gomez, 2013 Fancy Jeans child honoree, with Stanley, the Florida Panthers mascot.