

Lily Pad Haven | A healing haven



Grace Eberle and Grant Thompson



Carla Tweddale and Sharon Kent



Kenna Ehman and Bezash Sine



Adair Henry and Polly Pearce



“Human trafficking is not just a national problem or even a North Carolina problem,” said Grace Eberle, Vice President of **Lily Pad Haven**, “but a very local problem happening in our backyard.” Because of its geographical location, Charlotte ranks 10th in the nation in human trafficking cases.

Lily Pad Haven works to heal survivors of this modern-day slavery by providing housing for them. But it does far more than that. In a video shown at the organization’s inaugural fundraising event, **Stop the Traffick** on March 6 at the Charlotte

Trolley Museum, one survivor—whose identity was concealed—said, “Lily Pad Haven means a freedom and acceptance to be loved for who I am, forgiven for what has gone on in the past and to be healed and restored from that past.”

The sold-out event raised nearly \$60,000, part of which will be used for additional case managers, who provide informed care to the victims.

President Carla Tweddale shared staggering statistics with the crowd before showing the poignant video. Three pieces of artwork that one survivor created as a method of healing, were also

on display. A fourth piece was auctioned off, serving as a way for her to give back to Lily Pad Haven.

“The only way to combat this issue is going to be with the help of the entire community,” Eberle said. And the community gave back: bartenders donated their tips, vendors bid in the auctions, musician Michael Waters donated the evening’s music and moved attendees volunteered their time to the Haven.

One survivor shared a parting piece of wisdom: “Never give up. If you keep fighting, you have a chance to win.” ■

Get Involved: Lily Pad Haven

lilypadhaven.org | 704.312.2011

Written by Jennifer Hutson | Photos by Dianna Augustine

[More photos at SocietyCharlotte.com](http://SocietyCharlotte.com)

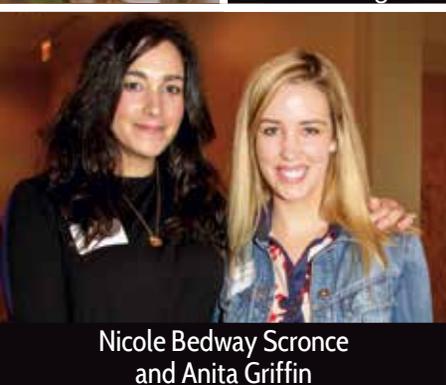
Baby Bundles | Clothing newborns



Rebecca Grant, Cat Long, Heather Leavitt and Emily Harry



Ursula Douglas



Nicole Bedway Scronce and Anita Griffin

More than 200 people poured cups of coffee from silver serving pots and helped themselves to fixings such as chocolate shavings, cinnamon sugar and sugar stir sticks. The **Great Expectations** coffee event benefiting **Baby Bundles** was off to a sweet start on March 11 at Myers Park Country Club.

One circle of women sipping coffee was comprised of members of **Care Ring’s** Nurse-Family Partnership, a recipient of Baby Bundles’ packages of essentials for underprivileged newborns. Baby Bundles partners with community organizations and hospitals to provide families in need with newborn clothing, a toy and a book. “It’s packaged with such care,” said Ursula Douglas, Program Manager for Nurse-Family Partnership, which provides home-visitation services for first-time, low-income mothers.

Ariana Shahinfar from the Department of Psychology at **UNC-Charlotte** described the impact that can be made by supporting low-income parents. She said that as caregivers, parents are expected to provide secure attachment for their children—a major necessity during the first year of life—in order to shape bright futures. “The goal of successful attachment is to enable the child to master his or her environment,” she said. “So in our culture, the mark of a securely attached child is one who uses the parent or caregiver as a secure base for which to explore the environment.”

Here in Charlotte, Baby Bundles provides what caregivers need to establish themselves as secure bases for their newborns. “In six short years, we have truly witnessed the power of great expectations in all that Baby Bundles has accomplished,” said Baby Bundles Co-founder Emily Harry. “From delivering our very first bundle to a mother with a new baby boy, to planning for the over 500 bundles we will deliver this year.” ■



Rebecca Grant, Kristen Wester and Ariana Shahinfar



Carrington Coulter and Jane Carol Maddox

Get Involved: Baby Bundles

babybundlesnc.org | 980.275.0963

Written by Katie Toussaint | Photos by Dianna Augustine

[More photos at SocietyCharlotte.com](http://SocietyCharlotte.com)