Surfgimp Foundation hosts inaugural Winter Bash

Hundreds of people turn out to support local charity helping disabled athletes

With auctioneer John Doerfler and Surfgimp Foundation board member Mel Leisner looking on, Team Surfgimp member Adam Land holds a surfboard shaped by local board maker Matt Garbutt during the live auction. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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A few hundred people enjoyed an open bar, a dinner buffet and live music at the inaugural Surfgimp Foundation Winter Bash, held Jan. 19 at the Rusty Rudder in Dewey Beach.

The Surfgimp Foundation provides grants for people with disabilities who want to experience their dreams the way Jay Liesener, a Milton resident and quadriplegic surfer, was able to experience his before his death last year at age 45.

Melanie Liesener, Jay's wife and foundation board member, said as of Jan. 22 the amount of money raised wasn't finalized, but she estimated it was going to be near $20,000.

Silent auction items included a 2,000-foot hang-gliding session from Virginia Hang Gliding; two entries into the 2019 Rehoboth Marathon including $50 gift cards from Rehoboth Beach Running Company; one free night at Addy Sea Oceanfront Bed & Breakfast; four 2019 Dover NASCAR Sunday Race tickets, and gift cards and tickets to local attractions.

The foundation's second annual Winter Bash is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, at the Rusty Rudder. Tickets have to be purchased in advance, but are not for sale right now. A for sale date will be announced in the future. For more information go to teamsurfgimpfoundation.org (https://teamsurfgimpfoundation.org/) .

The new Surfgimp Foundation logo was unveiled at the event.