

Benefit with 'BIG' impact



YWCA/Regan White photos

Approximately 450 people, martinis in hand, packed the hot-pink carpet at the "Go BIG or Stay Home" "Sex and the City: The Movie" premiere party at Birkdale Village May 29. The event raised nearly \$40,000 to be split between The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the YWCA Central Carolinas. The evening began with a two-hour cocktail party at Dressler's Restaurant, followed by an advanced screening of the movie at Regal Birkdale Stadium 16.

"On behalf of the YWCA Central Carolinas and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, I would like to thank everyone who attended," said Kristina Panuski, director of marketing for the YWCA. "I cannot tell you how touched I was to be in the presence of so many strong, independent, philanthropic women. It was very empowering."

Pictured clockwise from top: Event organizers (from left) Kristina Panuski, Sandy Bowers, Jon Dressler, Emily Haggart, Gay Stevens-Fragale and Bruna Oliveira strike a pose on the pink carpet. Finalists stand toe to toe in the Pink Carpet Shoe Contest, battling for a coveted pair of Manolo Blahniks. Eager women await their chance to enter Dressler's Restaurant for the benefit.