

## || CAUSE &amp; EVENT

# Felicity School hosts inaugural fundraiser

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC  
For Sun-Times Media

Mike Nekritz of Northbrook and co-founder of Felicity School in Deerfield looked content as any gracious host should.

Felicity School, at the Deerfield Joy of the Game, was his (and the Nekritz family's) cause célèbre. At the "Think Big, Dream Big" opening gala/fundraiser on June 14 they welcomed nearly 300 supporters, netting more than \$22,000.

The school honors Felicia Beth Nekritz, who died in September, 1998, from breast cancer.

Monies raised benefit the Felicia Beth Nekritz Memorial Fund which supports programs important to her, including breast cancer education, aid for families of cancer patients, and advocacy centers serving youth.

"She believed that every person could



Leonard Kaskel of Buffalo Grove (from left), Pat Garretson of Wilmette, Camille Bass Paddor and Allan Klein, both of Northbrook. | KARIE ANGELL LUC-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

achieve greatness," said Nekritz, brother of Felicia. "She was a friend, a writer, a lawyer, a wonderful person who believed



Erica and Mike Nekritz front row. (Back, from left), Ed, Wendy, Jessica, Susan, Matthew, Alyssa, Barry and Diane Nekritz, all of Northbrook. |

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in the beauty of life and that everyone had extreme value to provide. She believed in the sanctity of life for everyone."

Nekritz talked about Felicity School, an alternative setting that can accommodate up to 60 students. "We're a special ed, therapeutic day school for students who need a little bit more care, a little more direction, a little bit different curricu-



Wendy Kaufman of Highland Park (left) and Rhonda Harris of Deerfield. | KARIE ANGELL LUC-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

lum," he said.

Felicia's friends who were graduated together from the same 1989 Glenbrook North High School class, were also on hand.

"I grew up three houses away from Felicia, we were born five days apart, she was really my first friend in life," said Jodi Rosen, now of Chicago. "I think Felicia's memory and legacy will carry on through words and all of us."