



TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

THE PROMISE FUNDRAISERS HAVE BIG HEARTS



Above: MC Chris Sheasby. Has he spotted the band at the bar? Below Left: Patron of ThePromise, actress Barbara Flynn discusses the necklace she designed and created for the fundraising auction. Below Right: The Italia Conti performers didn't only wear their hearts on their sleeves!

Organisers of the Heart to Heart ball held in celebration and support of charity ThePromise were surprised and delighted when the £27,000 funds raised at the March event at Twickenham Stadium were matched by an anonymous donor among the guests.

ThePromise, set up in memory of founder Sarah Settelen's young daughter Ellie, supports three projects working with disabled children in the Ryazan community in Russia. Two of these projects involve work with disabled children in orphanages while the third operates at the heart of the Ryazan community, providing vital support to parents who have made the decision to keep their disabled child at home. The charity has witnessed incredible results with their introduction of the Portage system, which helps disabled children progress more quickly through the key developmental stages.

The 220 guests attending the event at the stadium's Live Room included the charity's patron, actress Barbara Flynn, whose welcome to the evening spoke of the countless examples of transformations seen in children benefitting from the work of ThePromise. MC and auctioneer for the evening was former England international rugby player Chris Sheasby. Entertainment was provided by Eloise Smith with the Italia Conti chorus, followed by music from Jason Kester and the Believers.

For more on the work of the charity see www.thepromise.org.uk.





Top: ThePromise founder Sarah Settelen updates guests on the charity's wonderful work in Russia. Above Left: Is this Y, M, C or A? Above Centre: An Italia Conti student having fun. Above Right: Founder of ThePromise, Sarah Settelen. Below Left: Gorgeous Anna Falbo toasts to the success of the evening. Below Centre: Tanya van Dalen, volunteer Occupational Therapist for ThePromise and her husband Morne. Below Right: Vicki Brown, one of the trustees of ThePromise and guest Martin Bolland.

