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JAMAICA PLAIN

JP charity to honor shop owner who donated \$200k Princess Diana dress



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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A Jamaica Plain charity that feeds people who are critically ill will honor its longtime supporters this week, including a former Back Bay boutique owner who donated a gown worn by Princess Diana that later sold for \$200,000, helping the nonprofit open its first kitchen.

Community Servings will honor Barbara Jordan, Lois Silverman, and Ron Ansin at the organization's 25th annual LifeSavor gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront on Thursday, June 6.

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In June of 1997, Jordan paid about \$100,000 to buy those dresses once worn by Diana, princess of Wales. She displayed them in her store Ejoue on New Street for a brief time before donating them to local charities.

One of those dresses, a black velvet gown that the princess had worn to the London opening of "Les Miserables" in 1985, went to Community Services.

Princess Diana died on Aug. 31, 1997. Shortly after her death, the dress sold auction for \$200,000 and the money helped the charity open its first kitchen.

support the organization's growth in such a simple way as they can.

The nonprofit at Thursday's gala will also honor Silverman, a former chair and long-time supporter of Community Servings who was introduced to the organization through The Boston Club and provided the agency's first line of credit, the nonprofit said.

"From the outset, it was clear to support Community Servings' vision and work," said a representative from Silverman. "I knew very early on, that my participation would be largely successful in its mission and needs, but needed the financial resources to get there."

The third business will be Arata, who the organization said "has a great potential at Community Servings early on, and has been an important participant in the organization's expansion over the past several years."

"It's wonderful to watch an organization like Community Servings grow," said a representative from Arata. "Our responsibility has grown from a few dozen clients to now reaching over 2,000 individuals and their families."

The 11th Annual gala this year will be sponsored by ENY, Melham, Hines & Shickel of CMA, Citizens Bank and The Boston World Wide Fund. The event will include a city-wide dinner party involving more than 75 local restaurants and bars from 11:00 p.m.

"We're excited to be recognizing these three incredible individuals who have made a critical contribution to Community Servings' growth over time," said a representative from ENY. "We're proud to be a part of the organization's growth and success."

