



December 17, 2006

Mr. Randy Passonno, President
Collar City Auctions Realty & Management, Inc.
9423 Western Turnpike
Delanson, NY 12053-2105

Dear Mr. Passonno:

From the many comments we have received since the Landis Arboretum's dinner auction fundraiser at Howe Caverns on December 5, it would be difficult to over-estimate the impact of your professional services.

The event attracted close to 100 participants and in the few hours that included both silent and LIVE auctions, 80 donated items from more than 60 Capital Region businesses and supporters of Landis – coupled with raffle drawings for a 2006 Harley-Davidson Softail® Deluxe motorcycle, a hand-sewn, donated quilt, and a bidding war for the professional services of Chef Michael DeSalvatore -- netted the Arboretum nearly \$15,000 in sorely needed operating funds. This net does not include the more than \$1,600 raised by your impromptu plea to the audience to donate funds for sorely needed lighting at the Arboretum.

"Having the professional skills and quick humor of a professional auctioneer was invaluable in reminding us why we were all there and in coaxing us to dig even deeper as the evening progressed," said event chair, Bonnie Keller, vice president of NBT Bank, Duanesburg, and Landis Board member. She was, of course, referring to you as president of Collar City Auctions Realty & Management, Inc. (Delanson).

Your skill was especially important to us because we solicit too often from the same faithful supporters. Many commented on both your humor and sense of civility appropriate for the evening – even as they *did* dig deeper.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, our hard-working event committee, and the scores of tireless volunteers who make our events possible at the Landis Arboretum, sincere thanks for your passion and professionalism in helping us raise needed funds – while having fun doing it!

Cordially,

Thom O'Connor

Thom O'Connor
Executive Director