



## Date auction raises money for diabetes research

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The bidding started at \$10.

At first, silence cut through the room. Then —

“10! 15! 20! 25!... Sold to the girl in front for 25 dollars!”

The girl didn't pay for a piece of artwork or an antique necklace for her mother.

She purchased a date with the money going toward diabetic research.

The diabetes charity date auction last night at the Granada featured the opportunity to win a night out with members of Alpha Gamma Delta and Theta Chi.

The sorority and fraternity came together to support the Juvenile Diabetic Research Foundation, an organization that's dedicated to finding a cure for Type 1 diabetes. The Epsilon Beta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta raises money for diabetic research for its philanthropy.

“This hasn't been done yet on campus and it's going to be a really fun event,” Rachel Lantis, a junior from Hays and vice president of campus relations for Alpha Gamma Delta, said. “It's a very interactive based event which will enhance success.”

On Sunday afternoon 200 people had confirmed their invitation to the event on the Facebook; 385 said they might attend.

Fifteen women and 15 men volunteered to be auctioned off. The host described the daters in two words, announced their celebrity crush and their activity they'd chosen for their

date. More than 45 people had pallets and planned to bid. Some of the dates were sold for \$15 while others raised as much as \$65 for the cause, like Calen Gerstenberger a senior from Olathe and member of Theta Chi.

“I was little nervous but I was hoping someone would bid on me,” Gersteberger said. “It was fun.”

Gersteberger said that he had not yet met the girl who won the date with him, but that he planned to take her on a double date to a T-bones game. Other date ideas included dinner at Salty Iguana, movie dates and bowling at Jaybowl in the Kansas Union.

For Kylie Wingate, a sophomore from Liberty, Mo., and member of Alpha Gamma Delta, the cause hit closer to home. She was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was 12 years old. It's affected her life every day since.

“It's hard because I can't just leave the house,” Wingate said. “I have to make sure I have my medications and I have to check my blood sugar often.”

Lately Wingate has been having complications with her diabetes, which causes her to take four or more insulin shots a day, one for every time she eats. She's been supporting diabetic research for years and this event was no exception.

“It's nice to see people willing to support this cause that aren't even family or friends,” she said.

Alpha Gamma Delta will continue to raise money for diabetic research. Lantis said it's a disease that needs to gain more attention.

“It affects so many people and it's one of those things that goes under the radar,” she said. “Two girls in our sorority have diabetes. We will continue to passionately fundraise for research and technology because at the moment there isn't a cure.”

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