



By Audrey J. Bernard
Lifestyles/Society Editor

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York (ROR GNY) recently hosted its 10th anniversary celebration at the elegant Tribeca Rooftop in lower Manhattan.

The gala dinner and auction was attended by guests from the publishing, entertainment and sports industries and reached the organization's fundraising goal of \$190,000.

All proceeds from the event will benefit children in the New York region served by ROR GNY, an organization that puts books into the hands of children

Gala Event

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York raised \$190,000



ROR executive director Traci Lester (2nd right) with honorees Justin and Lauran Tuck and Emma Walton Hamilton with board members Maria Gotsch and Keith Dawkins

Andrews and her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, a well-loved book writing team.

In a joint statement, Traci Lester, executive director, and Maria Gotsch, board chair, ROR GNY welcomed guests to a magical evening and milestone celebration. "To everyone who shares our belief in the importance of providing children with books and a life-long love of

possible." Keith Dawkins, general manager, Nicktoons Network, and senior vice president, programming partnerships, Nickelodeon, and 10th anniversary benefit committee chair, presented ROR GNY's distinguished literacy champion awards to the esteemed honorees for their outstanding work in providing great reading materials to the underserved.

Justin and Lauran Tuck founded R.U.S.H (Read, Understand, Succeed, Hope) for Literacy in 2008. This new initiative donates books and other reading materials to schools in New York and Justin's home state of Alabama.

"It was an honor to be recognized for our philanthropy by Reach Out and Read, a non-profit that shares our belief that by helping children get access to new books, and showing them the joy of reading those books, we can both make the world a better place," the Tucks said.

Emma Walton Hamilton accepted the coveted award on behalf of herself and her mother, Julie Andrews. Together, Ms. Walton Hamilton and Ms. Andrews have co-authored a number of popular

children's books, including the Dumpty the Dump Truck series, Simeon's Gift, Dragon: Hound of Honor, and The Great American Mousical.

Ms. Walton Hamilton's latest book, Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading for Pleasure and Empowerment, published in December 2008, offers helpful advice for parents to instill a love of reading in their children.

their children, they build associations between reading and joy that help establish the foundation for a lifelong love of reading, and the countless benefits that reading skills provide. We are privileged and proud to support them, and are ever-grateful for the work they do."

The scintillating program ended with Roy Trujillo, chief operating officer, TransPerfect Translations International, Inc., leading the black tie audience in a 10th anniversary toast for the exceptional success of the charitable organization.

Toasts were also extended to all of the generous sponsors and auction donors who helped make the event the success it was. Special kudos to ace auctioneer Patrick Tully who, during a live auction, raised lots of additional funds for this great cause.

Other individuals deserving of a raised glass of thanks for an extraordinary evening included Phil Shawe, Co-CEO, TransPerfect Translations International, Inc., Thomas Killip, M.D., and Diana Killip, M.D., who served as 10th



Honoree Justin Tuck (center) and Honoree Emma Walton Hamilton (far right) with her son and friends

through pediatricians, nurses and other health care providers.

Hoda Kotb of the Today Show on NBC emceed the program honoring literacy champions Justin Tuck, record-breaking Defensive End for the NY Giants, and his wife Lauran, as well as Julie

reading, we offer you our most profound thanks."

"We hope that you have a wonderful time this evening, and that we can continue to count you among our friends in our ongoing effort to reach as many children with as many books as



MC Hoda Kotb with ROR guest

"Reach Out and Read recognizes that while we may learn to read and write at school, we learn to love reading at home, said honoree Walton Hamilton speaking on behalf of herself and her mother, Julie Andrews.

"When families read with anniversary celebration co-chairs; Susan Kaufman, editor, People StyleWatch who served as 10th anniversary auction committee chair; and Barry Zuckerman, M.D., founder, Reach Out and Read, who served as honorary event chair.



ROR board members Ann Sand, Judith Levine and Susan Kaufman



ROR board members Eileen FitzPatrick and Kathleen Collins with family & friends



Guests from Bronx Lebanon Hospital



ROR board members Gary Tannenbaum and Averie Hason with Roy Trujillo



Guests from Queens Hospital Center



Guests from St. Barnabas Hospital

(Photos by Gerald Pearl)