

Brighter Days for Children

The ballroom looked more like a beach Wednesday at Stratigos in North Huntingdon for Auberle's 23rd annual **All Star Banquet**. Pastel linens, flashing leis and parrot balloons helped bring to life this year's theme, "Aloha to a Brighter Day."

Dozens of children were honored for their success in Auberle programs, like education, vocation, arts and essays. CEO **John Lydon** said Auberle dedicates itself to helping heal troubled, abused and neglected children, and the awards they were given could be the first time in their life they have ever been recognized.

Events committee chairwoman **Kathleen Miclot** welcomed children, their parents, foster parents and staff to the event sponsored by Pittsburgh Bone and Joint Surgeons and Dr. **Michael Tranovich**. **Boniface Igba**, spiritual development coordinator gave the opening prayer and master of ceremonies **Kyle Harder**, director of intake services, announced each award. Proud students accepted plaques, while even prouder presenters beamed, each from a different Auberle division. In all, 350 people enjoyed the program, where more than 80 awards



KIM STEPINSKY/FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

John Lydon (left), Auberle CEO, Jim Rieland, Allegheny County probation director and Kyle Harder, Auberle director of intake services.

were presented to children, who all have brighter days ahead.

This year's Partner Award went to the county of Washington for promoting outstanding service to children and families. They received an original mural painted by Auberle children in 2003 called "There is Always Hope."

Banquet committee members were **Donna Beitler**, **Mary Marra**, **Annette Skoff** and co-chairwomen **Elaine Ostrowsky** and **Tracey Shellem**. Supporting the cause were **Derek** and **Sherri Bayer**,

Chas Avalli, **Cheryl Kubitz**, the Rev. **Earlene Coleman**, **Alison Piccolino**, **Robert Mineo**, Dr. **Joanne Nicoll**, **Ryan Casciani**, **Nancy Aquino**, **Cathleen Long**, **Rob** and **Shannon Polacek**, Judge **Kim Clark**, **Bob Macey**, **Tom** and Dr. **Patti Canfield**, **Jim Rieland**, **Connie Przybyla**, **Hayley Jameson-Napotnik**, **John Stockhausen**, **Frank Fera**, **Richard** and **Betty Sipe**, **Kaivon Maknoon**, **Tom Cascone**, **Mike McClure**, **Russell Carlino** and **Ann Rougeaux**.

— Jennifer Miele, WTAE