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Martial Hearts for Haiti performs 25,000 kicks to benefit earthquake victims

The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi in Arnold recently held Martial Hearts for Haiti — a fundraiser that included a kick-a-thon, demonstrations, door prizes and a dance party with Caribbean food and music.

Shifu Billy Greer, other instructors and students of Jing Ying Institute, and students and instructors from sister schools Goh's Kung Fu and Silk Dragon Martial Arts participated in the kick-a-thon with a goal of completing 1,000 kicks each.

In addition, CSA Martial Arts and the Wong People Kung Fu Association came out to support the event and made generous donations. Collectively, more than 25,000 kicks were thrown and \$5,000 was raised for CARE to benefit its work in Haiti.

The event began with a presentation by Marge Tsitouris of CARE who let participants know about the work CARE was doing in Haiti to help them gain an understanding of how the funds they raised would be used. CARE has relief efforts around the world and is known for efforts that focus on women and children. Marge, wife of Jing Ying Tai Chi student Doug Tsitouris, was leaving the following day for Kenya.

The presentation strengthened

everyone's resolve, and the kicking began. There were flying kicks, spinning kicks, jumping kicks, speed kicks, power kicks and combination kicks called out by Shifu Sean Marshall, who also kept the official count. The kicking was interspersed with demonstrations of Kung Fu and Tai Chi by Jing Ying, Goh's and Silk Dragon.

After the kick-a-thon, the event moved on to stage two — Caribbean-themed food and refreshments. In addition to the wonderful food, a Tiki-bar was set up with several blenders kept busy providing a variety of non-alcoholic tropical drinks. The night then moved on to stage three — DJs playing Caribbean - themed music for dancing. An incredible light system donated by "DJ Midnite" Tim Beltan provided a laser light show, smoke machine, strobes and more.

For more about CARE, visit www.CARE.com.

Since 2000, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi has offered programs in Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Wushu, weapons and sparring in the Annapolis/Severna Park area.

— *Billy L. Greer, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi*



The group was on hand to present the \$5,000 check to CARE representative Marge Tsitouris with Lane Greer in front (split), Billy and Nancy Greer (owners) holding check on either side and head instructor Sean Marshall in hat.