



PHOTO BY MIKE STIBEL

Comedienne Leanne Morgan entertains the packed house at the Grande Event Center during last Tuesday's celebration. Morgan appeared for the 10th year, reminding all that even through serious circumstances, fun and laughter are good medicine. WBIR's Robin Wilhoit returned as well to emcee the event.

raise funds for the annual event. This year those sponsored the Survivor VIP Room.

Survivors celebrated at 10th Pink Ribbon Celebration

By Rose King

The Grande Event Center was a sea of pink Tuesday for Compassion in Action's 10th Annual Gala, The Pink Ribbon Celebration. Of the well over 500 attendees, more than 200 breast cancer survivors were given VIP treatment with champagne punch, appetizers and goodie bags in the Survivor Room before being ushered to their seats in the Grand Ballroom.

"The event began 10 years ago to honor breast cancer survivors and raise funds for the Compassion in Action fund and has grown each year since. It's just amazing!" said Janine Minge, founder of the organization and celebration. "This just wouldn't be possible without an amazing team of volunteers, who meet and plan for months, table decorators who help make the ballroom so beautiful and the sponsorship from local businesses, media outlets and donors."

Games, prizes, silent auction and raffles brought excitement while raising funds to

unexpected financial needs that arise while patients are undergoing treatment.

Chris Blue headlined, bringing songs of encouragement and words of hope along with some hits from the past that brought the packed house to their feet. In addition to an energetic and inspirational show, he presented his Humanitarian Hero Award to Donna Smith who led her team to sponsor this year's VIP Survivor Room.

"When Chris asked us for a nomination for the award, there was no doubt who our hero is," said Minge. "Donna works tirelessly all year long to raise money and help people through Compassion in Action. She also helps in nursing homes, volunteers with homeless and provides baskets for the homebound. She's like a little stick of dynamite working and giving all over the community. She's certainly one of my heroes!"

Contributions to Compassion in Action, a non-profit organization, can be made to Compassion in Action Corporation, 3201 Chantilly Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917. You may also find

1 million voters and after Election Day the unusually high number of people voting may surpass the number of people who voted in the 2016 presidential election.

Tennessee has been one of the bottom four states in turnout. The Trump vs. Clinton election saw about 51% of registered voters making their choice of candidates.

There are 16,799,476 eligible voters in our state. In the 2014 off-year election only 28 percent bothered to vote. The Knox County Election Commission has forecast that this year about 70% of those who planned to vote probably voted early. That might mean that this off-year election turnout would be equal to the turnout in the presidential election.

Thursday was the final day to vote early and 11,110 people voted that day, bringing the final total