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Good times for good causes

At our office, we receive many, many fine photos of charitable events attended by fine people in finery, and we publish them in one of the most popular departments of the magazine, Click. But once in a while, we're surprised by an event for which Click's print format wouldn't do justice. "Raise the Roof," the **Children's Home Society of Virginia's** fourth annual fundraiser, is an example.

Mother Nature dressed up for this one.



That's Rolling Run Farm in Goochland County, where 225 guests gathered last November 15. They raised more than \$30,000 to benefit the nonprofit adoption agency, whose services also include counseling for birth and adoptive families alike.

Guests enjoyed roasted oysters ...



... as well as the musical stylings of bluegrass band Jackass Flats (self-proclaimed “Masters of Backwoods Symphonies”).



Since its founding 109 years ago, CHSVA has worked to find a permanent home for any child who needs one, and has placed more than 12,500 children. Kerry Lewis, below left, was one of them. (And yes, the event also featured a mechanical bull.)



"What a wonderful way to celebrate National Adoption Month," said Nadine Marsh-Carter, an adoptive parent and the agency's president and CEO, above right with CHSVA foster parents Susan and Charles Eagan.

Though National Adoption Month comes each November, Raise the Roof's revelers would probably agree that, really, every month is adoption month—it has to be, with nearly 1,600 foster children at any one time in Virginia's system alone. CHSVA's free orientations on adoption (Feb. 19 on infant adoptions and Feb. 26 on adopting older children from foster care) are perfect opportunities to learn more. (804) 353-0191 or CHSVA.org.