

ICPF 'Weekend In New York' Draws Record Attendance

by Jim Curley

The International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF) drew 69 people, a record number of attendees, to its Fourth Annual Holiday Weekend in New York.

The fundraising event included an opening night reception at the historic Palace Hotel, tickets to the Broadway hit *War Horse*, followed by a reception and dinner at the famed 21 Club. The weekend events were sponsored by Pratt Industries, The Bobst Group NA, Bates Container, Gerber Innovations, and Buckeye Corrugated.



North Richland, Texas based Bates Container brought a contingent of 12 people to ICPF's holiday weekend event.

Upbeat Mood

"This year's sell-out event is proof positive that our industry is a vibrant one," said George Sickinger, President of Color Resolutions International and, along with his wife Michelle, co-Chair of this year's event.



Reception hosts Mike and Renie Harwood of Pratt Industries, left, with George and Michelle Sickinger, co-Chairs of ICPF's Holiday Weekend in New York.

"Judging from my own company and what I hear from converters, things seem to be on the upswing for the industry."

"I think the year was better than expected for the domestic corrugated industry, with business really picking up in the third quarter," said Mike Harwood, Deputy CEO of Pratt Industries, which hosted the opening night reception at the Palace. "That

shows the resilience of the North American boxmakers as they adapt to developments such as the rapid growth of Internet buying by consumers."

ICPF President Richard Flaherty said that the four Holiday Weekend in New York events held thus far have netted the Foundation a total of more than \$200,000. "It's our most profitable fundraiser outside of our CorrAlliance and PaceSetter partnerships," he noted.



The Bobst Group representatives enjoy the opening night reception. Bobst hosted the reception at 21 Club.