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Recipe for Success and M Penner host first men’s show, featuring hometown hunks and specialty socks, for Foundation’s annual fashion series

DATETIME FEBRUARY 11, 2014. HOUSTON, TX. Whistles and claps swelled over the beats from the deejay stand, as hometown hunks and Neil Hamil models sauntered the runway at M Penner in Uptown Park Tuesday evening. Well lubricated with Manhattans, more than 200 energized, stylish onlookers showed their approval for the wild fashion show, supporting Recipe for Success Foundation.

Now in its fifth season—chaired by Leisa Holland Nelson and Laura Max Nelson—the Foundation’s Dress for Dinner fashion series has grown to prestige, Houston’s most in-vogue personas adding the benefit shows as staples on their social circuit. New retail partner M Penner helped mix things up this season to bring the Foundation’s very first Men Dress for Dinner: Sox, Love and Rock & Roll Fashion.

Karen and Murry Penner also brought renowned sock designer Vivek Nagrani in for the fun. They collaborated to design a special edition pair of socks, which Nagrani presented and sold at the show for $40, donating half the cost back to the organization to support its efforts to combat childhood obesity. The 70 pairs sold out in an instant.

The Men We Love honorees included a diverse group of guys, from poised and wearing sheepish grins (State Representative Gene Wu and former Dynamo star Brian Ching) to too-cool-for-school hams (Bob Cavnar and Ceron). The dozen honorees was rounded out with Bob Bruni, Robert Del Grande, Astley Blair, Henri Richardson, David Peck, Michael Mithoff, Jerry Lasco and Jared Lang.

The honorees and models donned pieces from M Penner’s well-edited collection, as well as Nagrani’s bold and varied socks. The evening’s themes were creatively woven into the show, as opening models played rock star with eye makeup and guitars, while closers sported bare chests, golden arrows and angelic wings.

The crowd of A-listers included: Miya Shay, Melissa Mithoff, Donna Bruni, Ellie and Michael Francisico, Paula Mott, Mimi Del Grande, Monica and Darian Lewis, Karina and Carlos Barbieri, Maryam Afshari, Scott Ipsen, Alex Blair, Todd Fiscus, Monsour Taghdisi and Holly A.N. Smith with Austin Alvis and Recipe for Success Founder Gracie Cavnar.

Next up in the series: March 26 – Spring into Summer Fashion Show and Dinner with the Designer, featuring Nanette Lepore; May 7, 2014 – Tootsies: The Fashion Gene Awards and Dinner. Dress for Dinner fashion shows are $50 per person for reception and fashion show; exclusive dinner events are an additional $300 per ticket.
About Recipe for Success Foundation

Established in 2005, Recipe for Success Foundation is dedicated to combating childhood obesity by changing the way our children understand, appreciate and eat their food, and by educating and mobilizing the community to provide healthier diets for children. RFS programs have empowered more than 20,000 Houston children with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthier lives.

The Foundation promotes healthy eating as the norm and works to create a culture where nutritious food is shared, appreciated, and celebrated. Through its award-winning efforts like the nationally offered Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education™ and Eat It! Food Adventures children’s cookbook series, and the VegOut! Challenge in Houston, the Foundation works to make healthy food appealing and available to everyone. Learn more at recipe4success.org.