

Plano Courier Star

In the Community. With the Community. For the Community.

Plano Event Raises \$380,000 For Governor

Governor Rick Perry of Texas arrived in Plano, Texas on Oct. 6 and left with campaign coffers full of cash.

A fundraising event hosted by Plano businessman Craig Keeland and held at Gleneagles Country Club brought in over \$380,000 for the incumbent governor, the largest single fundraiser in North Texas history, according to Keeland.

Perry and Keeland who have been friends for 25 years, decided to put together a fundraiser in Plano with a plan to raise \$75,000. Keeland sought the help of another friend, Larry Anders, who decided doubling that amount would be no trouble.

The two assembled a team of Perry supporters, and through the efforts of Harold Simmons, Gene Phillips, Brenda Pejovitch, Christina Melton Crain, Printice Gary, Charlie O'Reilly, Andy Beal, David Craig, Ray Huffines and Bobby Ray, the event raised over \$380,000.



An overflow crowd of 232 people packed the room to hear Perry speak. The governor spoke about the solid economic atmosphere in Texas, the relocation of companies across the country to Texas, because of the “friendly business climate,” and the fact that 80 percent of new private sector jobs were created in Texas.

The event brought together major contributors from Collin, Dallas, Denton, Grayson and Rockwall counties. Also attending were long-time Perry friends, Congressman Ralph Hall and state representatives Ken Paxton, Van Taylor and

Laubenburg. Mayors Bill Magers of Sherman, Brian Loughmiller of McKinney and Phil Dyer of Plano were also in attendance along with Hall of Fame running back Emmitt Smith.

Keeland said the money raised will help Perry get his message out about fiscal responsibility and limited government.