

## **If it gets hot in this kitchen, a party must be cooking**

BY SUSAN BOISSEAU  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

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The best parties often end up in the kitchen.

And then there was the party that started in the kitchen and just got hotter.

Kitchen Designworks on Staples Mill Road was the venue for Commonwealth Parenting's annual fundraiser and wine tasting, "Wine! Wine! Wine!" on Sept. 30.

Starting at the Farm Kitchen entrance with stir-fried Sichuan lobster in crispy tart shells paired with Marquise De Monistrol, guests easily flowed from one fabulous kitchen area to another, exclaiming over the food and the wine and, of course, the appliances.

"My wife would be thrilled to have a Wolf [range]," said Tony Wharton, whose wife, Karen, is a neonatologist.

"As a wannabe professional chef, that would be my dream," she concurred. Toss in a Sub-Zero, too.

Paul Koder, owner of Wine Trend Inc., suggested the menu, and A Sharper Palate prepared it.

Koder, who designs wine rooms for Kitchen Designworks, said wine rooms have replaced Jacuzzis -- they are so 1980s -- as a must-have feature in new homes.

"When people buy a one-million-dollar home, they expect to have a wine room," said Koder. "This is the trend now."

Carter Iseman, president of the Junior Board of Commonwealth Parenting, helped serve beef tenderloin and potato fritters, while Lauren Brown, Commonwealth Parenting board president and chairwoman of the event, cleared plates.

Elizabeth Pearce, Commonwealth Parenting's executive director, said the willingness of board members to volunteer for KP duty will enable Commonwealth Parenting to devote more funds to scholarships. It also means lower fees for its classes and workshops.

She said Commonwealth Parenting serves about 2,500 people a year. One-third are families with limited resources who have called for help.

"We try never to turn anybody away," Pearce said. "We will help them no matter what."

Marvin Daniel, Kitchen Designworks co-owner with Brian Pilgrim, said that in 2004 the showroom was used 55 nights for community events such as school auctions, Rotary functions and cooking classes. But he said he drew the line at having a wedding reception there.