

Fundraiser nets \$11K; drowning victim's family considers scholarship, fencing

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Salem -

A fundraiser last week at Gulu-Gulu Café raised more than \$11,000 for the family of Jocelyn Callahan of Salem, who drowned on Aug. 25.

The Aug. 30 benefit was hosted by the Essex Street café, where she worked until her death, and drew about 300 people.

"We did really, really well ... I was blown away," said Steve Feldmann, who owns the Gulu-Gulu locations in Salem and Lynn with wife Marie.

Callahan, 25, was found in Salem Harbor on the morning of Aug. 25 after being out on the town the night before. Police believe her death was accidental.

After growing up in Swampscott and also Nahant, Callahan moved to Salem as an adult. Friends and family remember her as a creative free spirit, blessed with an eternally upbeat personality.

It took the Gulu-Gulu staff just a few days to put together the event, which included food and drinks, an auction and raffles and live music by Machine 475. They were aided by some 50 local businesses that donated auction items or cash.

The staff worked for free and all proceeds after the 8 p.m. start time went toward the benefit, including all food and drink sales, the admission cost and the raffle and auction sales. Feldmann said a \$10 donation was requested as a cover charge, but most people offered more.

"People were just throwing \$50s in there," he said.

Initially, the family wanted the money to go toward installing a fence in the area where Callahan fell in, a dark path near the water that many people travel as a way to reach Peabody Street.

Feldmann said Laura Walton, manager of the Salem Gulu-Gulu, recently spoke to family members who were told that the city is already planning to install fencing in the area. The fence would be erected within a year as part of an ongoing waterfront revival project.

The Callahan family is now considering spending the money on a temporary fence, and possibly creating a scholarship fund.