Delivering Good: New Name, Record Turnout

- The charity has donated $1.6 billion in products to children and adults in need over the last 32 years.

At a sold-out luncheon at The Pierre hotel Wednesday, Delivering Good (formerly known as R.D.S., Fashion Dolls), showed through heartfelt examples how the charity has helped to alleviate the effects of poverty and disaster by providing new products to children and families in need.

Delivering Good, which changed its name this spring to better reflect its mission, unites manufacturers, foundations and individuals who provide new merchandise (including clothing, books, footwear and necessities) distributed directly to a network of organizations.

The charity, headed by Allan Ellinger, board chairman, and Lisa Garwicz, president and chief executive officer, has donated $1.6 billion in products to children and adults in need for 32 years. The luncheon, which was attended by 460 guests, raised more than $420,000, both record numbers.

The 14th annual Women of Inspiration Luncheon honored Gaye Dean, marketing director for licensing at Target Corp.; Tracy Reese, fashion designer, and Lana Todorovich, president, North America Wholesale, Ralph Lauren Corp. Cheryl Casone, Fox Business Network anchor, was the program’s host.

At the luncheon, she introduced one of her recipients, Tamara Morgan, now 32, who was born with a severe bone disease called osteogenesis imperfecta and has had numerous surgeries, fractures and severe pain throughout her life. Morgan, who is 5 feet, 2 inches tall, is in a wheelchair and is one of 10 children, has been helped by NAC for years. “NAC reinstituted normalcy and confidence to my parents...and had a tremendous impact on my life and my family’s life,” she said. Despite her serious health issues, Morgan, who grew up at New York Foundling Hospital, went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in art therapy at NYU.

In presenting the award to Reese, Susan Horowitz said, “We know that the programs of Delivering Good, by delivering good, provide a support system, hope and health to children and adults in need of care.”

“Delivering Good has done so much good for so many people, and I am honored to be a part of this,” said Morgan.

It’s a way of life; for me they go together,” she explained. “I’ve been working with Delivering Good for several years, and I’ve been so impressed by the work they do. They provide clothing and other necessities to children and adults in need of care.”

Target’s Dean spoke about her work for Bike Cops for Kids, which gives free bikes to kids in need and helps establish positive relationships with police officers. She spoke about how her diverse group of friends have inspired her and provided a support system through the ups and downs of her life.

Todorovich, who was introduced by her daughter Emma, described her humanitarian work as the founder of Circle of Hope Children’s Foundation, dedicated to providing help for underprivileged children from all walks of life. Having come to New York from Belgrade, Serbia, she is an exchange student in 1996, she fell in love with the city, the fashion industry and her husband. She said she’s fortunate to work at Ralph Lauren, a company that exemplifies what it means to give back. In the late Nineties, when war took over in the former Yugoslavia, she visited a refugee camp and a five-year-old girl, who had lost both her parents, climbed into her lap and gave her a hug. “It was humane and warm and bright and very intense. It was love for a complete stranger and humanity. It motivated my family to start this organization, which has helped hundreds of thousands of people around the world the last 10 years. Delivering Good is driven by the same kind of love,” she said.

PARIS – Zadig & Voltaire is enhancing its retail experience with a new generation of flagship stores that combine gallery spaces and pop-up areas featuring young designers alongside its core collections.

The French brand recently opened the first of these – spanning 9,000 square feet, its biggest store to date – on the corner of Rue Camon and Rue de Rivoli. A flagpole along the same axis measuring more than 5,000 square feet will be inaugurated on Broome Street in New York in September during fashion week. The U.S. is an important growth market for Zadig & Voltaire, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

“We are transforming our boutiques into experience spaces,” said brand founder Thierry Gillier, who is also an avid art collector. “Zadig & Voltaire is a lifestyle brand, and art has always been part of that lifestyle.”

The brand owns an extensive art collection, primarily on view in its headquarters, and has supported young artists in the past. Bringing art into stores is a way of starting Zadig & Voltaire’s mind-set with consumers, said Gillier.

“It’s a way of life; for me they go together,” he explained. “The way I imagined Zadig & Voltaire was with art. I can’t conceive of it without. And from time to time, we have to animate fashion, and this is a good way to do that. We’ve decided to make an investment.”

Art displays on view include paintings by Richard Serra, Julian Schnabel and Adam McFadden and sculptures by Erwan West and Daniel Firman. Later this year, the Paris gallery space will feature a selection of works from young artists during the Fiac art fair in October. “We will offer space to young artists and produce their exhibitions, because young artists often need financial support in order to be able to work,” said Gillier. The new Paris flagship, in a space formerly occupied by Dolce & Gabbana, was designed by Bernard Dubois, who aimed to create a showcase from different eras and places, like "an exotic encounter between Auguste Perret, Pierre Chareau and Ronald Swanston,” the architect stated. Dubois also conceived the upcoming New York flagship.

Over three floors, the “brutalist” Paris space, as Gillier called it, alternates white features with concrete elements, an Italian stone floor and walnut, steel and glass walls. Some of his shoes and accessories are found on the first floor; women’s and children’s wear on the second; while men’s wear and the art gallery are to be found in the basement space.

“We want to show our whole universe in a way we haven’t been able to before,” Gillier said.

Digital elements include MyZadig, an in-store app that offers ordering for out-of-stock items, mobile payments throughout the store and seamless on and offline customer service. Product ordering is available for preview articles on show in the boutique, and Chinese, Russian and Arabic-speaking staff are also on hand.

A DOPPS space, meanwhile, is dedicated to collaborations and limited editions, including collaborations with young designers. Currently on show are items designed especially for the brand’s 20th anniversary by students from Paris College of Art and Morison. For the next new design trend is another key part of the brand’s ethos, said Gillier. “This helps them by giving them a space to show their designs,” he explained. “That’s really interesting, because it helps us to find new talent. We always need young designers, and when we find someone good, we produce them like we produce an art exhibition.”

The new Paris and New York flagships are not one-offs. In key cities all over the world, Zadig & Voltaire is implementing larger stores and concept smaller ones. “It’s almost like a new beginning,” said Gillier. “We’re reinventing our position all round the world. We are opening big spaces in all the most important cities.”

A new store, opening in September, will also house a gallery space, and will replace two existing boutiques. New boutiques are also scheduled for Berlin and Stuttgart, and plans are in the works for several doors in China. All of these cities will have art, features and a taste of the brand’s art positioning.

Since we are opening bigger spaces, we will automatically put artworks in them to enliven our boutiques,” Gillier. “In Paris, we have the dedicated gallery space, but elsewhere, it will be more like store windows or a sample of what we do.”