Proving Margaret Mead’s axiom that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, the 26th annual Alzheimer’s Association Chicago Rita Hayworth Gala raised a record breaking $1.5 million for Alzheimer’s care, support and research programs.

The May 11 event, held at the Hilton Chicago, attracted an unprecedented 900 attendees. Roe Conn of WLS-AM’s Roe & Roeper and The Roe Report, and Tracy Butler, WLS-Channel 7 meteorologist, served as guest emcees, introducing a special performance by Grammy award-winning singer, songwriter and musician, Richard Marx.

The evening included music by Malik’s Ultimate Band, delivering a full repertoire of Motown, funk, disco, soul, rock and current R & B. Guests enjoyed dinner, program, auctions and dancing to the tunes of Orchestra 33’s Party Gras Band.

“Alzheimer’s is not your grandparent’s disease - it does not discriminate by age” said David Mendelson, a co-chairman of the event. “The record-breaking funds raised for Alzheimer’s care, support and research at the Rita Hayworth Gala will help to change the course of the disease in hopes of future generations never having to endure the devastating effects of Alzheimer’s.”

During the evening, Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, daughter of Rita Hayworth and Gala Founder, recognized Jerome Stone, founder of the Alzheimer’s Association, for his commitment to the disease and presented him with a cake in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Proceeds support the Alzheimer’s Association’s mission to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, as well as provide and enhance care and support for all affected.

For more information, visit www.alz.org.