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By Mark Shanahan & Meredith Goldstein

Howie is hands-on, then hands-off

“Deal or No Deal” host **Howie Mandel** had them laughing at Friday’s gala for the National Braille Press. Called “Hands On! Books for Blind Children,” the event at the Renaissance Waterfront was co-chaired by InterContinental Real Estate’s **Peter Palandjian** and his wife, **Minou**, Greater Media’s **Peter Smyth** (above, with Mandel), Celts co-owner **Steve Pagliuca**, and ex-Sovereign CEO **Joe Campanelli**, and included a special award for **Rocco Fiorentino**, a 12-year-old New Jersey lad who helped convince the New Jersey Legislature to dedicate \$1.2 million to Braille education. Afterward, the appreciative audience wanted to shake Mandel’s hand, but the swine flu-phobic funnyman politely declined.